



TODAY
TOP SPORTS COLUMNISTS
IN THE TIMES
Brian Glanville:
Who cares about tactics? PAGE 44
Lynne Truss among The Dell
boys, PAGE 42



ROCK'S
OUTSIDERS
Let's hear it
for heavy
metal
PAGE 34



TOMORROW
Lump Sum
Investment



Rush to stop taint of sleaze spreading

Labour sacks frontbencher in Greer row

By Andrew Pierce, James Landale, Jill Sherman and Philip Webster

THE cash-for-questions affair claimed its first Labour casualty last night when a frontbench spokesman in the Lords was sacked for defending the lobbyist Ian Greer.

Baroness Turner of Camden, a director of Ian Greer Associates, was ordered to step down as an employment spokesman by Lord Richard, Labour's leader in the Lords, after giving an interview to Channel 4 in which she denied that MPs had been paid to ask parliamentary questions.

She was not given the option of resigning her directorship to save her job, but was simply told that she had to go — even though Lord Richard accepted that she had done nothing improper. Labour sources, determined not to lose the political advantage over sleaze, later tried to emphasise the difference between what they called the Tories' "drift and dither" over the scandal and their party's swift action.

The party leadership was particularly angered by Lady Turner's defence of Mr Greer's company paying money to MPs — including Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary — on the ground that the trade union movement assisted many Labour MPs. A friend said: "They were ruthless. She was told by a Labour Party apparatchik to stay in her room at the Imperial Hotel. They took no account of the fact she had been a member of the Labour Party for decades."

Lord Richard said: "There is



Lady Turner: dismissed in her hotel bedroom

no suggestion that she acted improperly in her capacity as a director of the company and I accept she was speaking in a personal capacity. However, after discussing the matter with her, she has agreed that it would be inappropriate for her to remain as Labour's frontbench spokesperson on employment, and is therefore stepping down."

Lady Turner, 69, has been a friend of Mr Greer for more than 20 years and a member of his board for five. She was said to be devastated by her dismissal and was in tears when she telephoned Mr Greer to tell him the news.

A former trade union official who became a life peer in 1985, Lady Turner had been in charge of a three-person employment team. Another friend said that the Lords job had been a godsend since she was widowed 18 months ago.

Ian Greer Associates employs a number of Labour Party activists but Lady

Turner — who was paid a fee of £6,000 — was the most senior member of the party on the company payroll and her name appears on the company's headed notepaper.

When the House of Lords voted to change the defamation laws, to enable Neil Hamilton and Mr Greer to fight their libel case against *The Guardian*, Lady Turner spoke in favour of the move from the backbenches. But the Labour leadership would not allow her to take part in the division or speak from the frontbench. She also defended Mr Greer during a Lords debate, claiming that allegations that he paid money to MPs to ask parliamentary questions on behalf of Mohammed Al Fayed were without foundation.

Last night Lady Turner told Channel 4 that she would stand by Mr Greer. "I firmly believe in the innocence of Ian Greer and I will continue to support him." She denied that there was a conflict of interest in staying on the Labour frontbench and IGA. "My frontbench colleagues and the leadership knew of my position since the beginning. I really do feel I am absolutely in the clear and I have no intention of resigning."

Lady Turner's dismissal came as John Major pledged to release all government documents relating to Mr Hamilton to an inquiry to be chaired by Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards.

Letters, page 19



Ann Pearson addressing Labour delegates yesterday

Parties clash on Dunblane

THE political truce over Dunblane was broken yesterday after a mother from the town made an emotional plea to the Labour conference for a ban on all handguns.

Ann Pearson had delegates in tears as she spoke of the toll of Dunblane: "17 dead, 14 injured and one child who watched it all. An entire community cut down emotionally... three minutes, one legal pistol, 105 bullets fired."

But her appearance prompted a row between the parties with Conservatives accusing Labour of degrading the tragedy. Challenged to explain why Mrs Pearson, a founder of the Snowdrop anti-guns campaign, had not been invited to their conference next week, Tory officials said

they did not want to be accused of seeking political mileage from the massacre.

Labour retorted: "Ann Pearson is quite understandably seeking every important platform in the country. The Labour Party conference was both delighted and honoured to give her this opportunity."

Mother's plea, page 8

Italian fears over EMU entry target

Lamberto Dini, the Italian Foreign Minister, has cast doubt on the wisdom of the country's attempt to meet the Maastricht single currency criteria. The decision was announced only last week. He also suggested that other countries, such as France, were also unprepared. Page 14

Nurse accused of harming patients

An ambitious nurse switched off intensive care patients' machines in a malicious attempt to discredit other nurses and gain promotion, a court was told yesterday.

Amanda Jenkinson denies causing grievous bodily harm to one woman with intent and two charges of grievous bodily harm to two others. Page 3

Merger means dearer fares

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

FERRY prices to France and Belgium are set to soar after the two leading cross-Channel operators merged their fleets in response to a vicious price war triggered by the opening of the Channel Tunnel.

The £400 million merger, announced yesterday by P&O European Ferries and Stena Line, will mean the loss of about 1,000 jobs in Kent. It ends months of uncertainty over the industry's future.

The new company, P&O Stena Line, will have a total of 13 roll-on roll-off car ferries and one high-speed craft on the Dover to Calais, Dover to Zeebrugge and Newhaven to Dieppe routes.

Two ageing ferries are being removed, saving £75 million a year, and Dover departures will be cut from four or five to two or three an hour. "The days when you had two half empty ships going out at once have gone," said a P&O spokesman. "From now on it will be one full ship."

City analysts said ticket prices, which have fallen to all-time lows in real terms this summer, would probably start to pick up by the beginning of the holiday season next Easter. "This summer was the absolute nadir in terms of prices and passengers can look forward, if that is the



Typical! The moment you plan a pillage...

right phrase, to higher fares next year," said David Elsmore, an analyst at the stockbrokers Kleinwort Benson.

The P&O spokesman said average prices had fallen by 50 per cent since the early 1990s and that this year's peak summer fares of £99 for a car and £1 a passenger were about a third of the level of two years ago. "You will see a gradual scaling down of these crazy discounts and promotional offers," said the spokesman. "There is a tacit agreement from the major players to stop playing silly games with £1 and 10p offers."

However, consumer groups gave a warning that the merged company would have a stranglehold on Dover-Calais sea crossings and would force through substantial price rises. "With a monopoly above and below the

Continued on page 2, col 4

Duchess withdraws action to halt book

By Russell Jenkins

THE Duchess of York last night dropped her legal action to stop the publication of a book exposing her affair with John Bryan, her friend and former financial adviser.

The book, *Fergie, Her Secret Life*, is said to deal frankly with the separation of the Duke and Duchess, her habitual money problems and her attempts to raise extra cash to fund her lavish lifestyle.

It is written by Dr Allan Starkie, an American business associate of Mr Bryan. He and his publisher, Michael O'Mara, were jubilant that they can publish a book they confidently predict will become a world best-seller.

The Duchess caved in only days before her lawyers were due to defend the injunction on the book from being lifted and prevent publication. Michael O'Mara had warned

her that he would be seeking £2 million in damages if the Starkie book were "wrongfully delayed" by her actions. The judge, Mr Justice Astill, had asked her to place £500,000 into the court in the event that she lost the trial.

It appears that the Duchess has managed to extract little in exchange for her action. Her advisers sought an assurance on Wednesday that the book contained no material damaging to other members of the Royal Family which is not in the public domain. The publishers were able to do so.

Mr O'Mara, who published Andrew Morton's *Diana, Her True Story*, described Dr Starkie's book as "extremely frank and shocking". He said: "Dr Starkie's documentation is impressive and backed up by his story to the fullest extent. I expect his book to be a worldwide best-seller."

Britain's wartime Enigma traitor is unmasked

By Tom Rhodes in Washington and Michael Evans

A SPY codenamed Baron, who gave information to the Russians in 1941 obtained from Britain's top secret Ultra decrypts of the German Enigma cyphers, was named last night as John Cairncross, also known as the "Fifth Man".

Baron is one of many codenames

appearing in declassified documents relating to Venona, an Anglo-American intelligence operation to crack Russian codes, which have been released this week by the National Security Agency in Washington and the Public Record Office in Kew, west London.

Baron, an agent of the GRU, the Red Army's general staff intelligence directorate, passed messages through the organisation's London residency

to the HQ in Moscow about the movement of German troops into Czechoslovakia and Poland. An American official said yesterday: "We really don't know much about this person." However, Professor Sir Harry Hinsley, co-author of three volumes of the official history of British intelligence in the Second World War, said there was only one man who was then working at the Bletchley Park code-breaking school and who passed

secrets to the Russian Embassy in London: "That was John Cairncross."

In early 1941 Russia was still party to a non-aggression pact with Germany. But it appears the priceless information that British codebreakers had broken the German Enigma cyphers was not passed to Hitler. Stalin ended his pact with Hitler when Germany invaded Russia in June 1941. This was followed swiftly by a treaty between Britain and Russia.

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40

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TV & RADIO	42, 43	LETTERS	19, 27	ARTS	32-34	SPORT	37-42, 44
WEATHER	22	OBITUARIES	21	CHESS & BRIDGE	39	BUSINESS NEWS	23-31
CROSSWORDS	22, 44	BERNARD LEVIN	18	COURT & SOCIAL	20	EDUCATION	35

Ill-matched partners dancing out of step to discordant tunes

More than a decade ago I watched a little-known employment minister called Alan Clark speak from the dispatch box. He was drunk. The speech was not his, but written for him by faceless apparitions. He delivered it like a schoolboy forced, under protest, to read aloud: a gabbled monotone.

A little-known Labour backbencher, Clare Short, flipped. Close to tears of rage at his blatant insincerity, she shouted, heckled and finally protested to the chair. She

was so angry that she was barely able to speak.

Yesterday at Blackpool, fate came full circle for Ms Short. A party spokesman himself, she read out in a monotone a speech she gave no appearance of wishing to make. This was not tomfoolery: it was just that her heart was not in it and she could not, or would not, pretend. Everything but the words said "It is not my choice to be here: not my choice to be making this speech."

Ms Short has been demoted by Tony Blair from

Shadow Transport Secretary to Overseas Development spokesperson. This was the debate on foreign aid. There was just one moment of open insolence. Head down and through gritted teeth, Short read out a paragraph which used the words "socialist" or "socialism" four times.

Seated on the platform, Mr Blair maintained a steely impassivity. Beside him was the Shadow Home Secretary, Jack Straw. If Ms Short has been the bad girl in headmaster Blair's new Labour school, Jack Straw has been the good



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

boy. The youth who, as president of the National Union of Students, said "We are bringing the authorities to their knees" had yielded to the middle-aged politician about to tell the conference yesterday that "Labour is the true party of law and order". "Give our neighbourhoods back to the decent people!" cried Straw, to a burst of the

dutiful applause which punctuated every reference to clean-ups and crackdowns peppering his speech. Had he brandished a pair of handcuffs at the cheering faithful, as Edwina Currie once did, it would hardly have seemed out of place.

"Yes, we do believe in civil liberties," he declared — then went on to say that the

liberties which count are the liberties of decent, law-abiding folk, the victims of crime. I cannot remember a Tory conference in 16 years at which this sentiment has not been expressed by a Home Secretary.

Part of Mr Straw's speech I watched from the exhibition hall next to the debate. Here, at the stand of the trade union Unison, a good band from the National Youth Jazz Orchestra, sponsored by Unison, were playing *Don't Blame Me*. Delegates — an odd mixture of homely Lan-

cashire ladies, shyters in cufflinks and sharp-cut women in regulation earrings — milled around in separate worlds. Above the heads of writhing saxophonist and mesmerised drummer floated a video image of Mr Straw, mouthing platitudes.

None of it gelled. The band switched to a mournful *Solitude*, accompanied, from the anti-hunting stall, by the distant tape-recorded screams of dying animals. Two blow-dried young parliamentary candidates in yellow ties minced past, networking. "A

new age of achievement!" The bark came from a video of Mr Blair's speech, now on sale.

Nothing cohered. A party conference is a doomed waltz of the hopeful and those who prey on the hopeful: a tangle of seams and ambitions, kindnesses, lies and dreams. When the music slows and we study the dancers, the moment is unspeakably sad.

Conference reports, pages 8, 9
Giles Coren, page 17
Blunkett interview, page 35

Convicted boy sent on canal boat trip costing £1,100 a week

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

A BOY convicted of assault has been sent on a canal boat course costing £1,100 a week. The 13-year-old, who is awaiting sentence, has been put on the therapeutic course for six weeks by the social services department of Gloucestershire County Council, which earlier caused widespread anger by sending the so-called Safari Boy Mark Hook on a round-the-world trip.

The boy in the latest case, who is in care, was convicted of assaulting an adult and criminal damage. He cannot be named for legal reasons. After admitting the offences before magistrates last month he was sent to a home, but it could not cope with him. He was too young for secure accommodation and the social service's department says the

boat course will keep him secure and closely supervised. Gloucestershire has been criticised for the way it has handled several young delinquents. In 1993 it sent Mark Hook on an extensive holiday which included visiting the pyramids in Egypt. Last year it gave a couple £60 per week to spend on their son to try to stop him stealing.

Douglas French, the Tory MP for Gloucester, attacked the latest action of the social services department as misguided. He said the action showed a disregard for the public and the taxpayer. "There is a wilful determination not to learn the lessons and to squander resources."

Mark Curran, director of Care Afloat, which organises facilities for children, said the

cost was not excessive. "With our narrow boat exercises, we use them as a way of getting to know the children who come to us so we can build on relationships if they come back to us at a later date."

He said the children have to run the boat and do things like shopping and cleaning. It was a very intensive couple of weeks and not a holiday.

A spokeswoman for the social services said: "Projects like the boat scheme are used when a youngster had to be moved away from the area, there was a danger to the community or to the child if he stayed in the county. She said: "It is true that £1,100 may seem a lot of money to most, but it is one of the most reasonable prices available for such a secure placement."



Karmele Ereño, the girlfriend of Diarmuid O'Neill, and his brother Shane, at his graveside yesterday

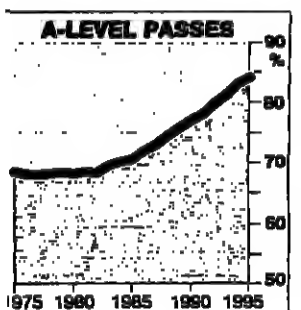
IRA suspect buried in Ireland

DIARMUID O'NEILL was buried in the Irish Republic yesterday, ten days after he was shot by anti-terrorist police in west London.

Karmele Ereño, a Basque who was O'Neill's girlfriend for three years, stood alongside family and friends — as well as Sinn Féin and IRA supporters — for the service. Ms Ereño, 27, who lived with O'Neill in London for a time, is thought to have placed a death notice for him in the newspaper that supports the aims of the Basque terrorist organisation ETA. Yesterday she assisted his mother Theresa O'Neill into Timoleague's Church of the Nativity for the hour-long Mass.

The ceremony had no paramilitary trappings. Up to 30 supporters of Sinn Féin and the IRA joined more than 350 mourners at the funeral in the Co Cork village of Timoleague. They observed a plea by Mrs O'Neill and her husband Eoghan to avoid any military-style tributes.

A levels 'now easier for the brightest'



Continued from page 1
calculations and algebra. However, today's candidates were said to be better at data-handling and overall standards were similar to 1975.

Chemistry has suffered from the introduction of the double science GCSE, which the report found was demonstrably easier than the single subject paper. Double science left students with less know-

ledge of basic concepts than those given the same grade in the separate chemistry GCSE.

Chemistry A level has declined in popularity because it is perceived as a "hard" A level. Overall, however, there was only a slight decrease in standards over time.

The analysis of English at A level and GCSE found standards were broadly the same as 1975 despite syllabus

changes. In some papers, the demands on candidates have increased.

Sir Ron Dearing, in his review of qualifications for the Government in March, recognised that bright students were not being stretched and advised that the S level, a paper of greater difficulty than A level, be revived.

Education, page 35

Fares fear as Channel ferries merge

Continued from page 1
waters, consumers face reduced choice and higher fares as a cost duopoly tightens its grip on the market," said the Consumers' Association.

The merged company and Eurotunnel — which earlier this week secured its own future with bank refinancing of its £9 billion debt — will each control 41 per cent of the cross-Channel market.



The merger deal was initiated by Lord Sterling of Plaistow, the chairman of P&O, who approached his Swedish-owned competitor last November. Talks have

been going on since but the move became a possibility only in July when Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, lifted a 17-year government ban on ferry company

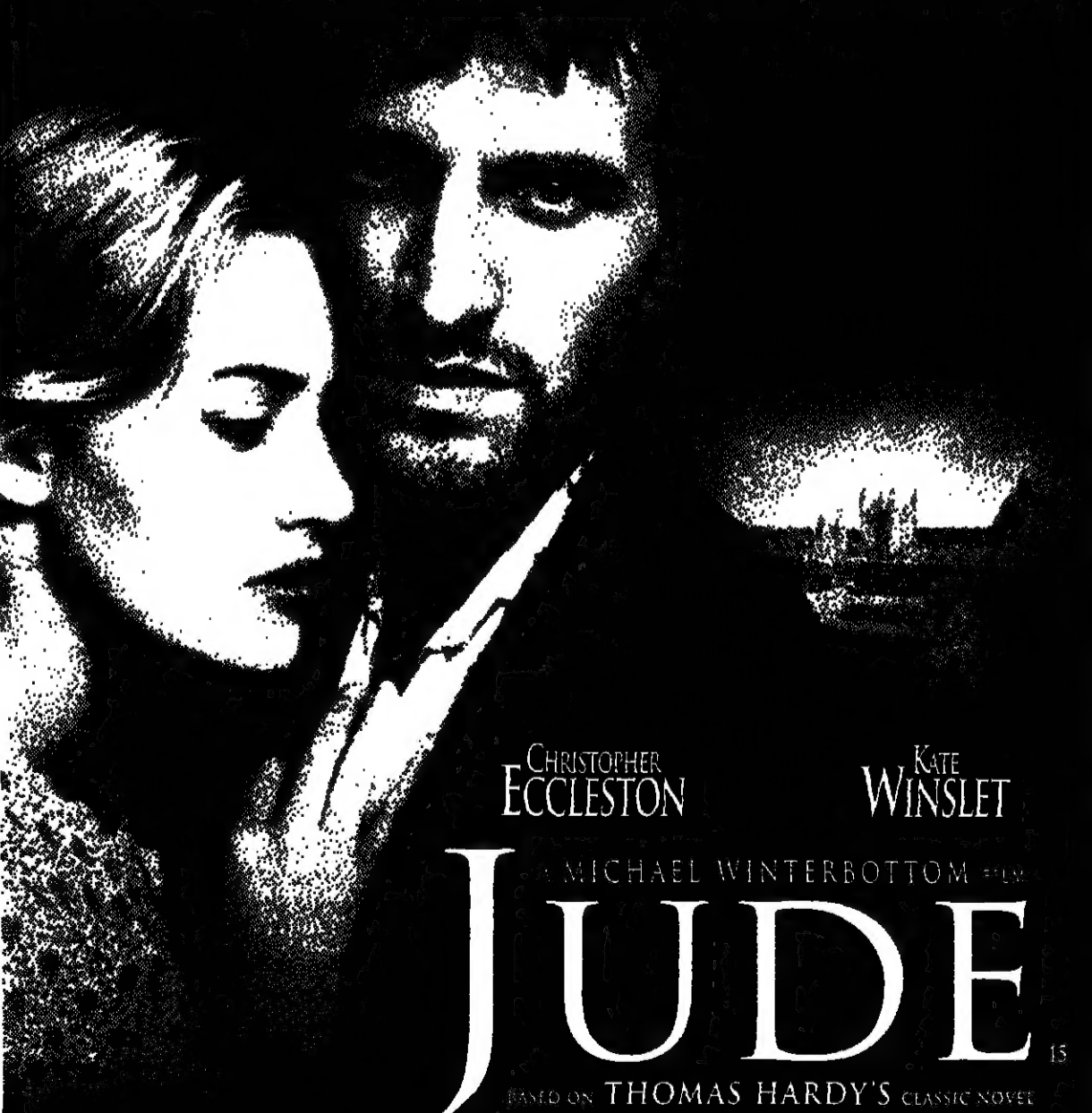
mergers. Both companies will continue to operate separate ferry services on the Irish Sea, the North Sea, the Scottish routes and the Western routes in the English Channel.

P&O, earning £120 million from ferry operations in 1993, was expected to make a loss of up to £10 million this year.

Tempos, page 26
Tunnel vision, page 27

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'Lottery winner' still on march

By Shirley English

THE vast generosity of a mystery English lottery winner apparently intent on giving away his millions to Scots reached new heights yesterday with news of his biggest tip so far.

Norman Hannah, 25, a bus driver on the Isle of Skye and part-time crofter, had a wad of notes amounting to £1,100 thrust into his hands after he gave a hitch-hiker a lift during a rain storm.

He stopped his car after seeing a man thumbing a ride at Arndale. As the last bus had gone and it was raining hard, Mr Hannah offered to drive him 30 miles to Portree, even though he was only going ten miles himself.

During the journey the stranger told him he had won £7.4 million on the National Lottery and had travelled north to escape "scrounging relatives and friends in England".

When they got to Portree the man insisted on paying, despite Mr Hannah's protests, and pulled out a pile of cash, then quickly left the car.

Mr Hannah's fortunate encounter happened last Friday, before the philanthropist moved east to Inverness where he continued his give-away this week. He is thought to have been in the Highlands for about a fortnight. His generosity first surfaced ten days ago when he gave an Inverness taxi-driver a £250 tip for an £11 fare.

People think it more likely they will win the lottery than live comfortably on a state pension, according to a survey published today. As many as 22 per cent thought they would scoop the lottery jackpot but only 19 per cent thought they could have a reasonable lifestyle in retirement, according to the study by MORI for the right-wing think-tank Adam Smith Institute.

'She turned places of hope for desperately sick people into a danger zone'

DOUG MARKE/PAGE ONE



Amanda Jenkinson arriving at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday morning

Ambitious nurse accused of causing harm to patients

By Tim Jones

AN AMBITIOUS nurse switched off intensive care patients' machines in a malicious attempt to discredit other nurses and gain promotion, a court was told yesterday.

For Amanda Jenkinson, patients were pawns to be sacrificed in her quest for advancement. Nottingham Crown Court was told, "Such units are meant to be places of hope and help for desperately sick people. Instead, she turned it into a danger zone. She could not have found more helpless victims," Peter Joyce, QC, for the prosecution, said.

During her time at Bassetlaw Hospital in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, Miss Jenkinson had all but caused the intensive care unit to collapse by tampering with medical equipment.

Miss Jenkinson, 36, started work on the four-bed unit in 1990. She acquired a reputation for being highly efficient and for paying great attention to detail. She set herself high standards and was impatient towards other nurses whom she thought did not measure up to her. "The result of this was that colleagues and patients were treated with a contempt that they did not deserve as she secretly tried to stage-manage events in order to manufacture inadequacies in others to enhance her superiority," Mr Joyce said.

On nine occasions between February 1993 and January 1994, medical equipment attached to patients in the ward was found to have been interfered with. Settings had been altered or machines switched off. "At first," Mr Joyce said, "other staff attached no sinister significance to the events. It was not conceivable that one of their number could deliberately do anything harmful to patients."

Initially the nurses thought failure in the medical equip-

ment was caused by fault or error and many had a tendency to blame themselves. But, Mr Joyce said, all the incidents could not be explained away by coincidence. There was a pattern, a common link, and that was Miss Jenkinson, the only one to have been present at all nine incidents.

When Miss Jenkinson was treating Kathleen Temple, 67, who had been admitted to the hospital with severe chest problems, it is alleged that she

A nurse tried to kill a helpless patient by leaving him with his face buried in his pillow, a court was told yesterday. Shaun Darrook, 22, of Bolton, Greater Manchester, committed a "callous and malicious act" on William Winnard, 61, in Bolton General Hospital.

Roger Farley, QC, for the prosecution, told Manchester Crown Court. He said Mr Darrook also taunted and assaulted another patient and made derogatory remarks about patients. Mr Darrook, an auxiliary nurse, denies attempting to murder Mr Winnard, who had Alzheimer's disease, and denies an alternative charge of causing actual bodily harm. The trial continues.

deliberately tampered with a ventilator severely to reduce the oxygen supply. Mrs Temple's ventilator went from a high rate to a low rate, leaving the patient with 0.8 assisted breaths per minute instead of eight breaths. When the switch was discovered the following morning and Miss Jenkinson was told, she grinned, commenting that it was "a different way to get a patient to sleep."

Miss Temple died three days later, although Mr Joyce said

that Miss Jenkinson was not blamed for the death.

Brenda Joyce, 60, was admitted to the unit on Christmas Day, 1993, after a severe asthma attack. She was sedated but the prosecution alleges that Miss Jenkinson switched off the machine that gave her the sedative, causing her to wake up, which could have panicked her and brought on a fatal asthma attack. Another nurse was blamed for what happened.

In the case of Joyce Charlton, who had a broken neck after being strangled by a patient at Rampton Hospital, it is claimed that Miss Jenkinson cut off her sedative supply and disconnected a unit that could have signalled she was distressed. When the problem was discovered another nurse was extremely upset and blamed herself.

Mr Joyce said that on one occasion Miss Jenkinson was caught red-handed tampering with a machine but laughed it off as a mistake. On occasions Miss Jenkinson had also laughed and smirked when told of the effect of the machine failures she had caused.

The case involving Miss Charlton was the sixth time units giving drugs to patients had been deliberately switched off, Mr Joyce said, and prompted staff to launch an investigation.

Miss Jenkinson was suspended on January 25, 1995. She was arrested in May 1995 and denied everything, suggesting that her colleagues had conspired against her and telling police: "They hate my guts, they're jealous of me. They've been trying to discredit me."

Miss Jenkinson denies causing grievous bodily harm to Mrs Temple with intent, and two charges of grievous bodily harm to Ms Joyce and to Miss Charlton. The case continues.



Fleming: claiming sex discrimination

Woman inspector says men made life nightmare

By a Staff Reporter

A WOMAN described as a model police officer who tried to prove that she was being victimised by male colleagues ended up being suspended from duty and facing disciplinary charges.

Dena Fleming told an industrial tribunal in Nottingham that male colleagues made her working life a nightmare when she tried to introduce changes after being promoted to inspector at Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, in June 1994.

In a "desperate attempt" to gain evidence of victimisation, she put a voice-activated tape recorder in her locker. "But my locker was searched, the tape recorder was discovered and the following day I was sent home from duty," she told the tribunal.

Mrs Fleming, 38, who is claiming sex discrimination, said she was wrongly accused of having an affair with another officer, false complaints were made about her by colleagues, and she was accused of neglecting her two daughters.

After the tape recorder incident, she was told she was to be charged with disciplinary offences. She was transferred from Gainsborough to Lincoln and was officially suspended in February. In November, 1995, she had submitted a 64-page grievance report that included claims that officers "went to great lengths" to establish she was having an affair. She said: "It is my belief the officers resented the success of a woman."

Mrs Fleming said her immediate superior, Chief Inspector Dick Foley, was "desperately trying to ruin my credibility" by investigating rumours about an affair behind her back.

Robin Allen, QC, for Mrs Fleming, said: "This is an extremely grave case. It concerns a woman who was in every respect a model police officer." She had been described as having a totally professional manner when she was assessed for promotion. However, she had been "undermined, inhibited and humiliated in carrying out her duty".

The hearing continues.

Black magic mother strangled her son as sacrifice to keep husband, court told

By Joanna Bale

A YOUNG mother fascinated by the occult and black magic strangled her six-year-old son then left him laid out like a sacrificial victim in his woodland den, a court was told yesterday.

Ruth Neave, 28, killed Rikki Neave as a calculated act to be rid of a son who was out of control and win back her wayward husband, James Hunt, QC, for the prosecution said at Northampton Crown Court.

The jury was shown a photograph of Rikki's body which had been "deliberately laid out" with his arms and legs outstretched like Leonardo's drawing of Vitruvian Man, found later on the cover

of a magazine on the occult in Mrs Neave's home in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

The court was also told that Mrs Neave, an amphetamine user, had asked social workers to take her "delinquent son" into care because she could not cope. She threatened to kill him if nothing was done. She allegedly strangled him by picking him up by his clothes so that they formed a ligature around his neck and held him until he suffocated.

Mr Hunt told the jury that the murder was "bizarre" and added: "His body was found naked, laid out in the woods in a very distinct position in which he had been arranged. As the jury studied photographs of the body, Mr Hunt said: "The pathologist will tell

you that he must have been held choking in that position for at least half a minute before his body would become limp and lifeless. Only enough force was used to kill him, no more. There was no gratuitous violence."

As Mrs Neave began to cry in the dock, Mr Hunt went on: "Who would do such a thing? Who would hold him like that and why? Who would then arrange him in such a position that you see, and why?"

The court heard that Rikki had not been sexually attacked. Mr Hunt said: "This was not the action of some perverser or some paedophile wanting to gratify his lust. We can rule that out. He had not been physically assaulted apart from the act of asphyxia-

tion which killed him." He went on: "He had been stripped naked, not indecently assaulted, and then his body arranged in that spreadeagle way that we see, even to the position of the arms and hands symmetrically set out to the same degree either side, the legs similarly. Each limb would have to be positioned, wouldn't it? And whether it is coincidence or not, even the hands seem to have the thumbs in the same position."

He then said: "Is it far-fetched to suggest that from the position that it was laid out, it was almost as though the body was being offered up as a sacrifice. Is that way over the top?"

Mr Hunt then referred to a book on the occult, *Magick* by

Aleister Crowley, found by police in Mrs Neave's house on the Welland estate. He said: "It speaks of sacrifice. It speaks of sacrificing animals and that for the highest spiritual working, one must choose a victim such as a male child of perfect innocence and high intelligence, the most satisfactory victim."

The court was told that Rikki was killed on November 28, 1994, a day after his mother and stepfather Dean Neave's third wedding anniversary. The day before Rikki died, Mr Neave had walked out on his wife promising to return for an anniversary celebration, but had failed to turn up.

The marriage was "turbulent" and featured long periods of estrangement. Mr Hunt



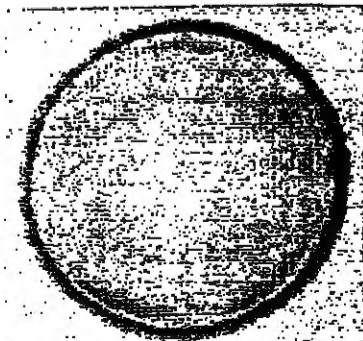
Rikki Neave was laid out naked like a victim of a ritual. His mother is accused of his murder

said: "He had other women, had served prison sentences, we suggest the evidence will show that she was obsessed with him and would do anything to keep him."

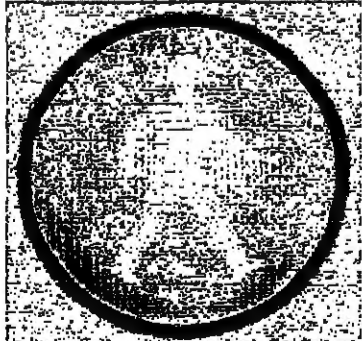
The couple were habitual drugtakers and Mrs Neave's addiction sometimes caused her to become violent and



verbally aggressive, the court was told. She would often leave Rikki alone at home and he would wander the streets late at night. He regularly played truant and she often sent him to fetch her drugs and to shoplift, Mr Hunt said. The defendant denies murder. The case continues.



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'When you leave your pet in the kennels you really feel that you are leaving someone in prison'

Nato chief joins campaign for end to quarantine law

By Valerie Elliott and Michael Hornsey

ONE of the country's most senior Nato officers called for an end to Britain's "cruel and evil" quarantine rules yesterday after the death last week of his golden retriever, Hunter.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Stear, who retires next week as deputy commander in chief of Nato forces in Europe, based in the Netherlands, has decided to speak out against the "extended incarceration" of pets.

Sir Michael said last night: "The kennels do their best, but they are all concrete and sand and it is truly awful. When you leave your pet you really feel you are leaving someone in prison."

He has written an open letter to Major-General Peter Davies, director-general of the RSPCA, urging the charity to support the campaign to change the law. Hunter, who

was two years old, was with his parents and had just 26 more days left in quarantine at the Hill Farm kennels in Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. Sir Michael is incensed because he is convinced it was due to the stress and environmental deprivation of quarantine. His dogs had all been tested and had a high rabies immunity. They have been microchipped, vaccinated and blood tested.

In his letter Sir Michael said: "It seems that Hunter could not adjust to the concrete and sand environment with little sight of, let alone access to, a blade of grass."

He and his wife Elizabeth called on the RSPCA to press for changes to the outdated regulations. "It seems to us and many thousands like us that the RSPCA's charter as a champion of animal welfare

demand no less," they wrote. Sir Michael said: "I have spoken to numerous ministers about quarantine and I just do not understand why they have not taken on board the recommendation of MPs to abolish the rules."

Two years ago the Commons Agriculture Select Committee called unanimously for the ending of quarantine in favour of a vaccination scheme. Feelings are running high in the diplomatic and defence communities, where families are frequently denied the chance to have a pet, and where usually only those of senior position can afford the £1,500 to £2,000 kennel fees for the six-month quarantine period.

The issue has come to the fore following the highly-publicised death last month of Mr Bogie, a spaniel owned by



Hunter the golden retriever had just 26 days left in quarantine at the kennels described by Sir Michael as "all concrete and sand"

Henrik Sorensen, a Danish diplomat who was handed his pet's ashes in a coffee jar.

An RSPCA spokesman said: "We are reviewing our stance on quarantine and all the alternatives to it. We have said we would like to find an alternative, but until there is a long-term solution which will guarantee rabies staying out of Britain we believe it should

remain." The RSPCA is gathering evidence from Sweden, which abolished the quarantine rules two years ago and introduced proof of a rabies vaccine for cats and dogs coming from Europe.

Lady Fretwell, chairman of Passport for Pets, has been lobbying Labour politicians in Blackpool and intends to take her campaign to the Conserva-

tive Party conference next week. She said that 106 pets had died in quarantine this year.

Gloria Rambridge, owner of Hill Farm kennels, confirmed that Hunter died there last Friday. "We do not know yet what he died of. We are still awaiting the results of post-mortem tests," she said. "He was under size for his age and

not robust-looking when he arrived here. He had several fits while he was with us. Hunter's parents, Harry and Hannah, are also in quarantine with us and are in perfect health. All our pets are inspected daily by a vet."

About 6,000 dogs and 4,000 cats go into quarantine each year at an average cost to the owner of £1,500 per dog and

£1,300 per cat, generating business worth more than £14 million a year.

The British Veterinary Association said last night that it was opposed to an immediate abolition of quarantine, but said that by the end of the century it might be possible to replace quarantine with a system of vaccination, blood tests and animal passports.

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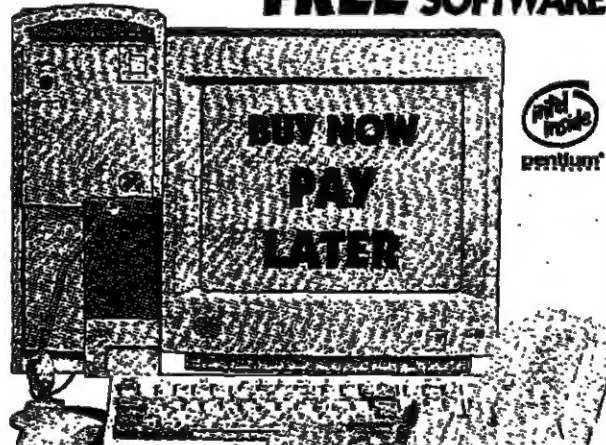
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Sperm donor law 'not a matter for discretion'

A widow battling to be allowed to use her late partner's sperm to have a baby had no legal right to start a family with a dead husband, the High Court was told. The law requiring sperm donors to give written consent was not a matter for discretion, David Pannick QC, for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, said.

He was replying to a challenge by Mrs B, a 30-year-old widow from the Midlands who claims the authority has taken an "unduly narrow approach" in refusing to allow her to be artificially inseminated with the sperm.

Surgeon tests positive for HIV

A hospital is contacting 300 patients after disclosing yesterday that one of its surgeons has tested positive for HIV. Whiston Hospital at Prescot, Merseyside, insisted there was "virtually no risk" to those treated by the doctor. The hospital has set up helplines on 0151-430 1592/1626/1957/1958.

Multiple birth woman recovers

Mandy Allwood, who on Wednesday lost the last of the eight babies she was expecting, was making a good recovery yesterday at King's College Hospital, southeast London. In a ceremony at her bedside Miss Allwood, 31, chose names for the six boys and two girls. Max Clifford, her publicist, said: "She is still totally heartbroken."

Briton wins Danish jazz award

The British jazz pianist and composer Django Bates won the £22,000 Jazzpar Prize in Copenhagen for music described as unpredictable and nearly chaotic. Bates is the eighth recipient of the annual award, created in 1989 by the Danish Jazz Centre. At the age of 36, he is the youngest Jazzpar winner.

Firewoman's bias claim upheld

The Appeals Tribunal Court in London upheld a decision that a woman firefighter's career was destroyed by years of sexual discrimination. Tania Clayton, 31, right, won an industrial tribunal case in 1994 but Hereford and Worcester Fire Brigade appealed. Yesterday's 29-page ruling by Lord Justice Mummery opens the way for substantial compensation.



Hospital halts routine surgery

The Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham is to halt routine operations for two months from November to save money. The number of operations carried at the hospital is 4 per cent above the total agreed with Nottingham Health Authority. The hospital says that there are no reserve funds to pay for extra operations.

Live ammunition found at school

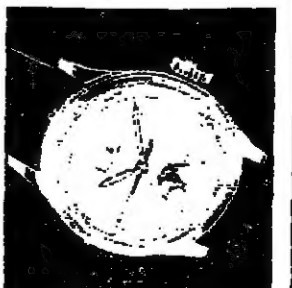
A gun club safety officer who kept live ammunition at the primary school where he worked has been arrested. Bullets, replica pistols and other items were found in a locked storeroom at Norden Community School, Rochdale, Greater Manchester, used as an office by Paul Fell, 36, a caretaker. Mr Fell was released on police bail.

Cows' milk link to diabetes

A theory that feeding babies on cows' milk may increase the risk of diabetes is supported by a study in this week's *Lancet*. Doctors from St Bartholomew's Hospital in London found that recently diagnosed diabetics were far more likely to carry immune cells primed to attack beta-casein, a protein found in cow's milk.

Faulty watch sets auction record

A Swiss-made wristwatch, right, with a faulty special feature sold for £573,500 at Sotheby's in London, making it the most expensive stainless-steel wristwatch ever sold at auction. The 1944 Patek Philippe watch was designed with a mechanism allowing the second hand to be disengaged to set the time accurately but it was never fitted.



Drug reduces heart risks

People who have had a heart attack can reduce their chances of another by taking a cholesterol-lowering drug, according to the results of the CARE trial (Cholesterol and Recurrent Events) published yesterday in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The trial is the first to examine the effect of the drug, pravastatin.

هكذا من الأصل



From concrete to canvas: the prospect of an art career for Simon Sunderland, left, who signed himself Fisto across public buildings, was welcomed yesterday by his mother and the collector Mark Tictum

Graffiti artist freed after finding new perspectives

By Lin Jenkins

A GRAFFITI vandal who was jailed for five years — believed to be the longest sentence for illegal spray-painting — is to be freed after finding "a sense of purpose" through his art. Simon Sunderland, 23, has moved from concrete to canvas and is a promising artist, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Sunderland carried out an 18-month graffiti campaign on public buildings and vehicles. Lord Justice Hinchison, Judge van der

Werff and Mr Justice Rousier said in London that his sentence was "out of kilter" with those meted out for violent crimes. They reduced the term to two years, and as Sunderland has served a year he will be freed in a few days.

Mr Justice Rousier accepted that he had found "a sense of purpose and direction in his art", adding: "He has learned the lesson that badly needed teaching." But the judges were sceptical about the extent of Sunderland's talent. "It does occur to us that it will be some time before this appellant will be

asked to restore the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel," Mr Justice Rousier said.

Adrian Fulford said that Sunderland had been invited to attend a Council of Europe art convention next month and been offered a place on a fine art course at Barnsley College, south Yorkshire. The "extraordinary shock" of the five-year sentence had changed his attitude: "From lamp-posts and walls of old buildings it is now his intention to channel his undoubted talents to legitimate purposes — from concrete to canvas." Sunder-

land was jailed at Sheffield Crown Court in March by Judge Robert Moore after admitting 14 specimen charges of causing criminal damage that cost £7,000 to remove. Police said graffiti bearing his "tag" or signature — Fisto, Fista or Fist — was so widespread as to be a one-man epidemic.

Four hundred spray cans, marker pens and maps were found in Sunderland's bedroom at his home in Barnsley. Examples of his work were peppered throughout Yorkshire and extended as far as the London Underground. One mea-

sured 100 yards long in letters 6ft high.

Mr Justice Rousier said the crime was a serious one. "Not a Boy's Own prank or caper, it is a thorough nuisance", which took time and money to remove. He had also continued despite various probation orders and bail conditions.

His mother, Angela Noble, who campaigned on his behalf, said she was overwhelmed at the Court of Appeal's decision and just wanted to "go home and speak about Simon's future". By some accounts that could be rosy. Mark Tictum,

an entrepreneur and modest collector of modern art, plans to promote Sunderland's work. He has completed about ten works in prison in acrylic and emulsion paints on canvases made from bedsheets.

Mr Tictum said: "He is an intelligent young man with a lot of talent. He has matured a lot and done some good work, but he has limited time and limited resources. I intend to put that right." He saw the artist in the tradition of the urban artists of New York. Sunderland had a modern style and focused on themes with political

overtones. One picture had a cage superimposed on it to reflect his own imprisonment. "I believe he has a lot of talent and he has attracted a lot of attention, and should he wish to, can make capital out of his talents."

Sunderland joined the artists' branch of Bectu, the entertainments trade union, in prison. Fellow members campaigned for his freedom because they believed he was harshly treated. They were among demonstrators demanding his release outside the Law Courts in London.

Age is no bar to work as radical QC reaches 90

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

JOHN PLATTS-MILLS, QC, one of the Bar's best-known radical advocates, celebrates his 90th birthday today as the most senior practising barrister in Britain.

Mr Platts-Mills, a former Labour MP whose list of trials reads like a legal hall of fame, was still hard at work before the legal recess in July, defending eight men charged over pornographic material. "I started reading up the law on pawnbrokers," he joked.

"But then I discovered it was pornography. We spent 21 days looking at pornographic videos." All defendants were acquitted.

The case joins a long line of trials in which Mr Platts-Mills has appeared, including the appeal for the Great Train Robbers, and the Richardson and Kray gangland trials.

John Faithful Fortescue Platts-Mills was born in New Zealand, where he read law, taking a double first and five Blues, including rugby, heavy-weight boxing, and rowing. He came to England as a Rhodes scholar at Balliol College, Oxford, took another first in law and rowed and boxed for the university.

It is more than 40 years since he joined the newly-

founded Cloisters, one of the few radical sets of chambers at the Bar. President of the Haldane Society of Lawyers, Mr Platts-Mills has always been a committed socialist: he was a Labour MP for Finsbury, London, in 1945 but was thrown out of the party in 1948 for criticising policy towards the Soviet Union. He stayed an MP until 1950 and rejoined the party in 1969.

His views are staunchly liberal: he is passionately opposed to the death penalty and this summer he travelled to Egypt to defend members of the Muslim Brotherhood group. Not surprisingly his views are at odds with the "tough" penal policy of both Michael Howard and Jack Straw, believing all prison sentences to be far too long and prison to be a "university of crime".

He regularly visits Reggie Kray at Maidstone prison and believes he should now be released. "The silly old judge (Melford Stevenson) recommended 30 years but it was Ronnie who was really the ringleader."

He will not single out a particular trial in his career as memorable. "I enjoyed them all, especially playing the jury, getting to know them, their names — though that is not so easy to do now."

He intends to retire at 95. In the meantime, immediate plans include a dinner hosted by his six sons, and then another case, this time an action of his own over a small piece of land in Antigua which he accepted in lieu of £20,000 in fees many years ago.

"A chap I met persuaded me I should register it in the name of a company — not telling me that he himself was the company."

So I have briefed counsel out there to fight the case for me. I'm prepared," he says jovially, "to settle for £2 million."



John Platts-Mills: eldest practising barrister at 90

Woman harassed by computer porn

By a Staff Reporter

AN EXECUTIVE at a computer company subjected to a stream of pornography yesterday awarded more than £22,000 compensation. Maxine Morse resigned from her £60,000-a-year job after being repeatedly shown images, taken from the Internet, of bestiality and naked men.

She told an industrial tribunal at Woburn Place in central London that she suffered sexual harassment on a daily basis during the six weeks she worked for Future Reality, a Soho-based company that produces CD-Roms for home computers, in March and April last year. Ms Morse, who is single and in her mid-40s, said she was left depressed and exhausted after her ordeal. She was prescribed an anti-depressant drug by her doctor weeks after she joined the company.

"There were page three type pin-ups on the walls, but the

really offensive stuff was on the computers. The harassment left me feeling depressed and isolated as the only woman in the office." She described her former colleagues as "creative types ... they had pony tails, they were scruffily dressed and they were informal in the way they spoke." Asked whether she had protested, Ms Morse replied: "I did. I was very dismissive of them."

Of the total award, £9,793 was for loss of earnings, £11,940 for breach of contract and the remaining £750 for sexual harassment. Jessica Hill, the tribunal chairwoman, told Ms Morse, who has not worked since: "We are satisfied that there was sexual harassment. But we do not consider that the sexual harassment was the only or indeed the paramount reason for your resignation. It was clear that you were going to leave in any event."

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SAS troops ordered to sign contracts banning memoirs

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MEMBERS of Britain's special forces will be ordered today to sign a contract banning them from writing books about their experiences in action without permission.

The contract will legally bind members of the SAS and the Special Boat Service of the Royal Marines to a lifelong pledge of silence, unless they receive personal authorisation from their commanding officer.

The details of the contract, which has been drawn up after a series of bestsellers by former members of the SAS, will be outlined today in a formal instruction by the Defence Council, the highest decision-making body in the Ministry of Defence. The contract will also affect members of the two Territorial Army SAS regiments.

Members of the SAS and SBS who refuse to sign will be told they face dismissal and, after a set period, if they still object, will be removed from

the special forces. Special forces personnel who have left the Army will not be affected, although they are supposed to be bound by the Official Secrets Act not to reveal secrets of past operations. However, there is a possibility that the MoD will try to seek a binding undertaking from former personnel.

The MoD decided on the move after several former members of the SAS produced bestsellers. The first was *Bravo Two Zero*, by Andy McNab, a former sergeant, who wrote of the exploits of his SAS patrol behind Iraqi lines in the Gulf War in 1991. The book has made about £5 million.

Mr McNab produced a second bestseller called *Immediate Action* which the MoD tried to block. It withdrew an injunction after an agreement to remove certain passages.

Chris Ryan, another member of the same SAS patrol, produced his version of the

Gulf War story, called *The One That Got Away*. He was the only one of eight SAS men to escape after being pursued by Iraqi troops. His book was subsequently made into an ITV film. Both authors used assumed names.

Other big sellers that followed included one written by Paul Bruce, called *The Nemesis File*, claiming to be an account of SAS shootings in Northern Ireland. Mr Bruce said he was a member of an assassination team working with the SAS. He was interrogated by RUC officers who declared the story was fiction. They claimed the author had only been an Army engineer.

Mr McNab and other SAS authors said they felt justified in publishing after General Sir Peter de la Billière, Commander of British forces in the Gulf and a former Director Special Forces, wrote an account of SAS Scout-hunting operations in the Gulf War in his book, *Storm Command*.



Chris and Mandy Wardman outside the church at Guiseley where they will repeat the wedding vows

Crash man will remarry wife he could not recall

By KATE ALDERSON

A MAN who lost his memory in a car crash is to remarry his wife of 11 years in an attempt to help him to remember his past life.

Chris Wardman, 31, was left in a "post-amnesic state" after he suffered severe head injuries in the accident in March. He had no recollection of his marriage to Mandy, 29, of his children — Naomi, 10, and Michael, 9 — nor of his home nor of who he was.

After the accident Mrs Wardman refused to accept that her husband was unlikely to regain his memory. While he was being treated in hospital, unable to walk, talk or move, she sat at his bedside every day and worked at stimulating his memory with photographs and family videotapes.

Mrs Wardman, of Yeaton, west Yorkshire, said that she was warned that her husband might never regain his memory. "But I wouldn't let that happen to him," she said. "I told him if you don't remember me, then I'm going to make you remember me. I took hundreds of photographs into the hospital to show him and went through



The 1985 wedding that Mr Wardman forgot

them all over and over again with him.

"After nearly three weeks it paid off. One day it was like a light had touched on his head. I left the bedside for a moment to get a drink and he turned to his sister Margaret and said, 'Is Amanda my wife? I came back and Margaret said, 'He knows who you are'. We were all crying."

Next month the couple will celebrate their wedding anniversary by repeating their vows at St Oswald's Church, Guiseley, where they were married. "It has been a long

hard struggle, but it's worth it," Mrs Wardman, a hairdresser, said. "He is like a child who is seeing everything for the first time again."

Mr Wardman, a paint sprayer, whose car was written off in the accident, returned to the family home three months ago after rehabilitation treatment. He is still paralysed on one side of his body, but can walk unaided for short distances.

"Things have been going slowly, very slowly," he said. "I've just got to keep on learning. I have forgotten my life, everything I have been through and done. I couldn't remember my wife or children at first but slowly, thank goodness, that's come back."

He remembers a woman visiting him every day in hospital. "At first I thought, 'Who is this? I know I love her but who is she and why is she here?'"

Mrs Wardman said the children were delighted to have their father back. "It is still a bit hard. We have got a long way to go and are just taking it one day at a time. Chris still has an element of brain damage so we don't know how good it is going to get."

Wee Frees face division over heresy inquiry

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE FREE Church of Scotland could face a damaging split over its decision yesterday to clear three ministers accused of plotting the fall of the Reverend Donald Macleod.

At a six-hour meeting, the "Wee Frees" Commission of Assembly dismissed allegations that the three had been involved in a conspiracy against Professor Macleod, who teaches at the Free Church College in Edinburgh and was cleared of indecent assault at Edinburgh Sheriff's Court in June. The Church announced an inquiry into allegations that Professor Macleod had made heretical statements in the media. It will be carried out by the Training of the Ministry Committee, whose membership includes the three cleared ministers.

Professor Macleod, 55, said yesterday that he would not co-operate with any investigation into his views, and that he was considering leaving the Church he has served as a minister for 32 years. He would decide over the weekend whether to do so.

Such a move would undoubtedly deepen divisions between hardline traditionalists in the Church and those who support his reformist approach. Professor Macleod said that his socialism and his efforts to promote open debate on church matters had antagonised traditionalists.

He said: "They have put me in the dock again. I am to be re-investigated by the same committee on a heresy charge. I categorically say there is nothing in any of my articles that is contrary to the Christian faith." He said there were "plenty of steeples in Scotland and I don't want to add to them", but added that if others left the Church he would give them leadership.

In a statement, the commis-

sion said it rejected the idea that there had been a conspiracy against Professor Macleod led by the traditionalists, the Rev John Macleod, the Rev Angus Smith, and Professor Hugh Cartwright. It rejected moves to have the three deposed from the Training of the Ministry Committee.

The commission also announced an investigation into claims that many within the Church had lost confidence in Mr Macleod, Mr Smith and Professor Cartwright.

During the court case earlier this year, Sheriff John Horsburgh, QC, said the women who had brought charges against Professor Macleod had lied to help those involved in a campaign to remove him from office. He named Mr Smith, Mr Macleod and Professor Cartwright as the conspirators. Subsequent moves to bring charges against the three were dismissed by the Lord Advocate.

Yesterday Professor Macleod said the Church should stand for mainstream Christianity, but the Wee Frees were "in grave danger of becoming an antiquarian sect".



Macleod: might leave Free Church of Scotland

Catholics take cover for sex abuse cases

By RUTH GLEDHILL AND SHIRLEY ENGLISH

ROMAN CATHOLIC dioceses in Britain have taken out extra insurance cover against being sued for child sex abuse.

The decision to seek extra protection against civil negligence claims came after a spate of suits against the church overseas. In Mexico, the Roman Catholic church may have to pay out £35 million over more than 100 potential claims.

The liability cover for the church in Britain, through Sun Alliance, goes hand-in-hand with property cover through an offshore insurance company, the Catholic National Mutual in Guernsey.

Nicholas Cate, assistant secretary of the bishops' conference of England and Wales, said: "Legal cases can arise following child abuse, which could lead to a civil claim of negligence against the trustees of a diocese. I don't know whether there have been any such claims, because a case would be handled independently in each diocese."

He said that the Catholic Insurance Scheme, involving both the offshore Catholic

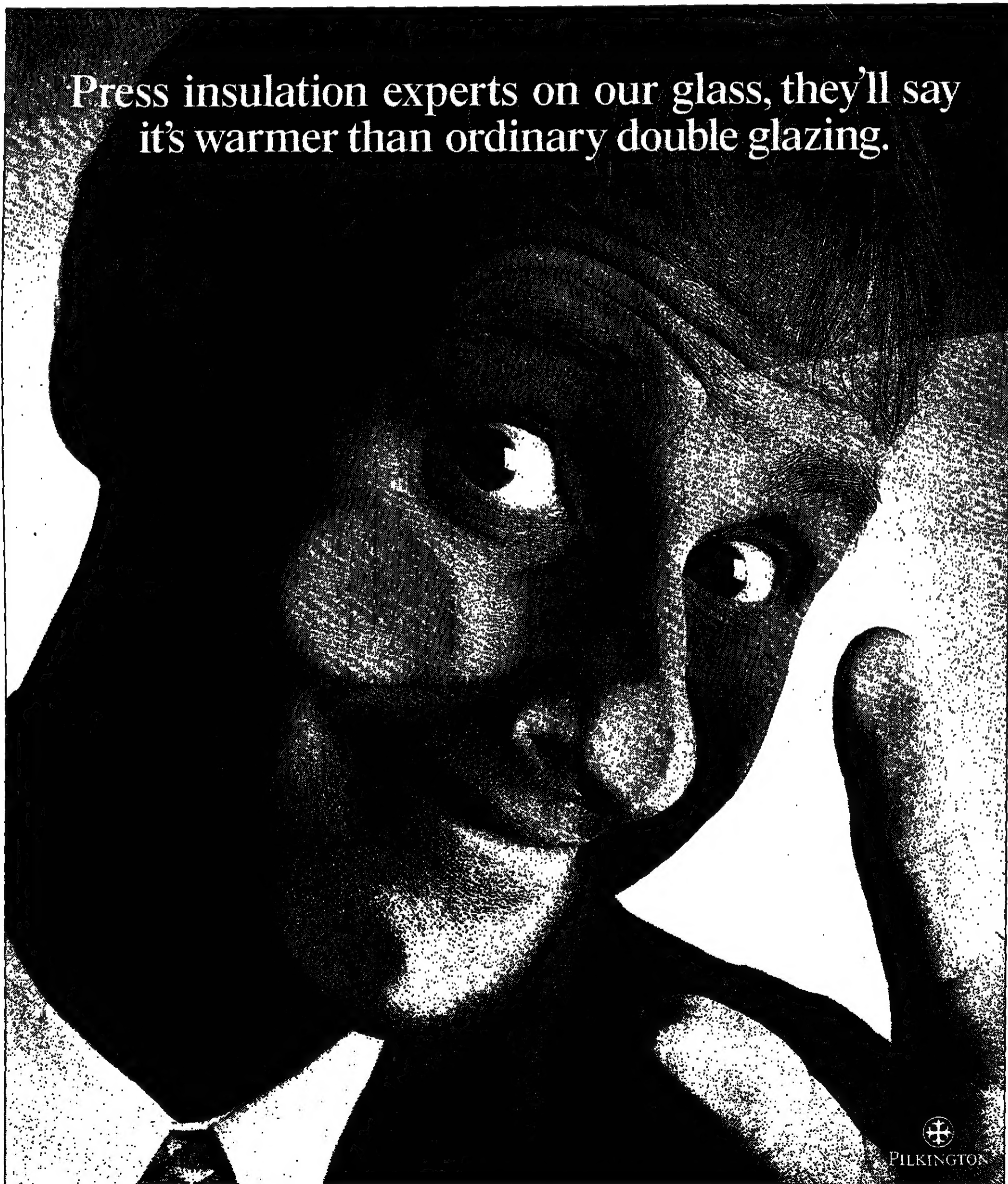
National Mutual and Sun Alliance, had existed since 1979. But since the early 1990s dioceses had been taking out extra liability cover because of fears that the victims of child sex abuse by priests might sue the church. However, he denied reports yesterday of a secret fund set up to pay compensation to victims of sexual abuse by priests.

Father Tom Connelly, spokesman for the Catholic Church in Scotland, said: "It seems like good housekeeping to be insured against any and every eventuality, given the mood of the times and the history of what we have witnessed in the US."

Leading Roman Catholic clergy in Scotland insisted that the Catholic National Mutual fund was simply a standard employers' liability insurance policy.

A statement from the church in Scotland said that as far as an individual abuser was concerned, abuse was a "criminal act" — and public liability cover would provide no protection to an individual perpetrator in the event of a civil case.

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Straw to enforce drug treatment for addicts in court

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CRIMINALS suspected of being drug addicts will be forced to take a drug test and enter a treatment programme under Labour plans announced yesterday to stifle drug-related crime.

Designed to break the "vicious circle between addiction and crime", the scheme is aimed at cutting the rising number of heroin and cocaine addicts who turn to crime to finance habits.

Burglars, thieves, drug dealers and some drug users would have to take a test for narcotics on conviction, but before they are sentenced, under plans unveiled by Jack Straw, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary, at the party conference. If the test proved positive they would be forced to join a four-month treatment programme.

Mr Straw said that Labour would tackle the rise in drug addicts, whose numbers have more than doubled in five years. Official figures record 37,000 drug addicts, but experts say the figure could be five times as high.

Labour says that heroin addicts steal goods worth £1.3 billion each year and that prison sentencing is likely to harden the addiction, leading to further crime after release.

Mr Straw said that although the Government has



enabled courts to force drug users to undergo treatment many courts did choose to use of their powers. "Too often those who are arrested are allowed to deceive themselves and the courts," he told delegates. "Too often they say they have stopped using drugs and stopped their life of crime, when in fact they've done nothing of the sort."

Under the plan, those offenders found to have a drug problem will be served a treatment and testing order to attend twice-weekly counselling sessions and methadone treatment for four months.

Labour is to consult on the details before giving costings. However, Mr Straw said that any costs would be lower than the amount spent on sentencing for minor drug-related offences, estimated at more than £3,000 a case.

Random drug tests throughout the programme would be

taken to discover whether the offender has stayed off drugs. Failure to attend counselling sessions or inability to break the habit would mean having to attend more intensive treatment sessions or returning to court. Those still on drugs would usually be put on another treatment course, rather than sent to prison, although jail would be an ultimate punishment for those who refused to comply.

The plan was welcomed by police leaders but criticised by probation officers, who are likely to be most closely involved in running the drug testing programme. A pilot study would be introduced early in a Labour government.

Chief Superintendent Brian MacKenzie, president of the Police Superintendents' Association, said: "There is evidence from the US that some of these programmes do work. We would welcome this as an alternative to simply sending drug offenders to prison and them coming out to continue their lives of addiction and crime."

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "This is the wrong approach. A better way of cutting crime would be to invest in detoxification, treatment programmes and pre-scription services."

Leading article, page 19



Tony Blair and his senior colleagues stand in silence after Mrs Pearson's emotional speech to the party conference in Blackpool yesterday

Dunblane mother moves party to tears

By ALICE THOMPSON

A DUNBLANE mother moved Labour conference delegates to tears yesterday with an emotional plea for a ban on handguns as the "only fitting answer" to the massacre of 16 children and their teacher.

Ann Pearson, 40, a founder organiser of the Dunblane Snowdrop campaign, was given a standing ovation after urging Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, to go "that little step further and

Handgun ban is the 'only fitting answer' to massacre of teacher and 16 children

close the gap between us" rather than compromising with the gun lobby.

Mrs Pearson, a friend of several parents of children who were killed in Dunblane, said: "Seventeen dead, 14 injured and one child who stood and watched it all. And an entire community cut down

emotionally. People may have the impression that it is all better now. That the children are all happily running back to school. Well they aren't."

"There is a growing anger and frustration that what happened at Dunblane was not sufficient to justify a complete ban on handguns. Believe me it is."

She said it would have been the sixth birthday two days ago of one of the victims, Sophie North. "She got cards and flowers but she wasn't there to blow the candles out on her cake. Compromise cost her her life."

The audience heard a chilling account of the day of the massacre when Thomas Hamilton walked into a school holding a legal handgun. "Three minutes, one legal pistol, 105 bullets fired. Those who survived were shot up to four times. They include a child who lost the sight on one eye, a child in a wheelchair with a shattered sciatic nerve, a child and gym teacher each with a hand that no longer works... A lot of life stories. And people say be quiet and wait for the experts."

Mrs Pearson, who was supported by another Snowdrop campaigner and mother from Dunblane, Rosemary Hunter, went on: "We must shut the door on public safety tight — so that it can't be pushed wider by the very powerful gun lobby in years to come. If future legislation falls short of a complete ban on handguns, let us all be very clear what we are being told. It

says that we and our children are expendable so that 57,000 target shooters can retain their right to pursue a sport that uses weapons designed to kill."

Mrs Pearson pointed out Hamilton had obtained his gun legally. "Criminals do not go into primary schools and commit massacres. This only happens when legally held guns are misused."

She said that doctors could not bear the responsibility either. Hamilton did not have any mental illness but a personality disorder that was hard to detect. "He knew his rights. When his life closed in around him, he used guns to solve his problems. Dunblane was a cold, premeditated massacre, well-planned in advance."

She explained: "Dunblane was the largest primary school in Scotland. Hamilton went in with 743 bullets — enough ammunition to kill everyone in it."

"His intention was the assembly where half the school, over 300 children and teachers, would be packed together. But he got the time wrong and the hall was empty. He fired his first shot into the assembly hall stage and moved on to the gym."

"His ear muffs served a dual purpose — to lessen the noise of the gunshot but also to block out a noise he would not have been used to on the target range, the screams of terrified infants."

"He fired at children and the teachers as if at targets.

some of which received seven bullets — some fired at point blank range down into them where they lay injured. He fired at injured children as they tried to crawl away — again and again, and again and again."

Close to tears, Mrs Pearson said: "On March 13, Hamilton inflicted on the innocent people of Dunblane 17 death sentences and multiple life sentences. There will be no reprieve, no parole for good behaviour, no right of appeal against his decision."

She said: "The only reason I am speaking to you is because the pistol that Thomas Hamilton used on his victims was legal."

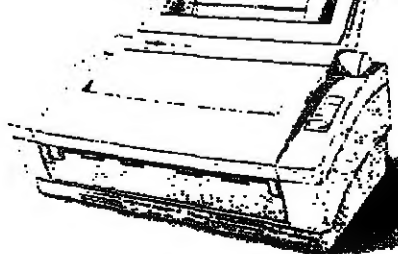
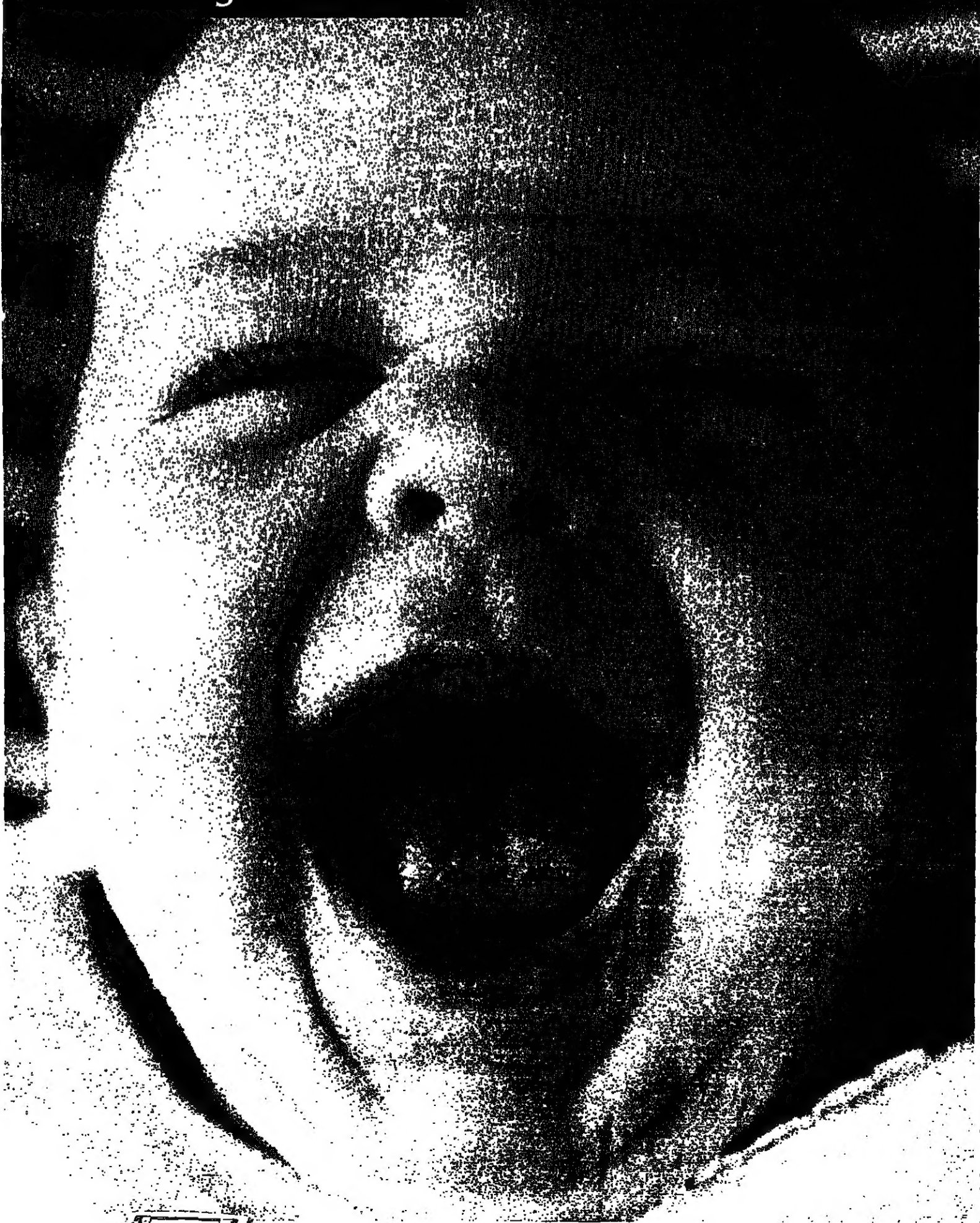
Later, after a minute's silence, George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, whose children had attended the Dunblane school, said: "Sometimes a silence speaks loudest of all."

Mr Straw had earlier made it clear that Labour would ban the private ownership in homes of all handguns. It will also impose a prohibition on anyone under 18 holding any kind of gun, including shotguns and airguns, an end to mail order sales of all firearms, and a licensing system. However, under his plan weapons could still be kept at gun clubs.

The Shadow Home Secretary said: "We shall not give in to the gun lobby, nor to their friends in the Tory Party."

Last night Mr Blair left open the possibility of meeting Mrs Pearson's demand. He said that on the question of going further Labour had made plain it would await the Cullen report into the massacre but he added that "I think the case she made was a reasoned one."

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Tories will have no joy from defence debate

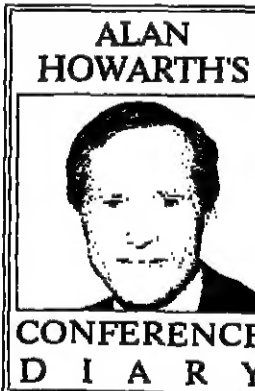
THERE was a time when Conservative Central Office looked forward eagerly to the defence debate at Labour's conference. No longer, I would think.

Not that there isn't still a profound difference between the approaches of the parties on arms exports. Yesterday the Blackpool conference backed a composite resolution arguing against Britain's hugely disproportionate dependence on arms sales. I made that case repeatedly while I was still a Conservative MP.

I hoped that Tories could have agreed that it is objectionable in principle and against common sense for Britain to make its living out of the sale of weapons of mass destruction which do, as we know, make their way to reckless and oppressive regimes. Of course, the political difficulty is that we have a great many jobs tied up in arms sales. But with the world market declining, and some Third World economies all but destroyed by their past excesses in buying and using arms, these jobs are far from secure and this investment is misplaced. It will be important that Labour's Defence Diversification Agency releases more of our industry from this dangerous trap.

David Blunkett's announcement of Labour's scheme to provide volunteering opportunities for 100,000 young people gave me particular pleasure, as chair of the all-party group on the voluntary sector.

I was determined to get to the fringe meeting held by the National Youth Agency



— which, as a minister, I had set up. It worries me that the youth service has been cut to shreds. With family breakdown, inadequate post-16 education, lack of job opportunities, low pay for young people, no benefits for 16 and 17-year-olds, and lower benefits for 18 to 24-year-olds, never was a strong youth service more needed. I was glad to be able to say a few words and echo Peter Kilfoyle's pledge on behalf of Labour to put youth work on a statutory basis, to fund it sufficiently and to co-ordinate the work of Whitehall departments.

The Conservatives' conference is advisory. Labour conference is executive. This year's Labour conference has had the sense to approve the policy documents proposed by the National Executive Committee. Of course, there is a hunger for more currents in the policy pudding. But a party in opposition is wise to make no more specific commitments than needed to make clear what it's about and convince electors of its seriousness and

competence. I remember well the pressures on the Conservative Party for policy commitments between 1974 and 1979.

The Conservatives got by with a magnificently jejune document called *The Right Approach*, followed *The Right Approach to the Economy*. Labour's five early pledges and Tony Blair's ten-point performance contract for a new Labour government look substantial by comparison.

Looking back on the week, perhaps what strikes me most is the magnanimity of today's Labour Party. Delegates recall with rueful horror, the 1976 conference when Denis Healey, tied and bound by the International Monetary Fund, had to account for himself from the floor in three minutes, and there was physical fighting in the gallery. This year, conference responded to Gordon Brown's promises of economic discipline with a standing ovation.

The debate on pensions was passionate but good-natured. Every speaker has been heard with tolerance at the least. I myself have been greeted with personal welcomes again and again.

Tony Blair's speech struck the note of reconciliation. He was generous to people who have been critical of aspects of his project. He was courteous in his references to John Major and he found better ways to make conference laugh than by mocking individuals. He offers a Labour Party in which anyone who cares about the integrity of our country is welcome.

Party backs Blair on Trident and draft manifesto

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR won over-
whelming backing yesterday
for his manifesto for govern-
ment as for the second year
running the Labour leader-
ship survived the party confer-
ence without a single defeat.

Mr Blair's programme for a
first Parliament, which will be
put to a ballot of the party's
400,000 members next month,
was backed by most of the 745
delegates attending this year's
conference. But the show of
unity was marred slightly
when a delegate accused the
leadership of stifling debate
and allowing parliamentary
candidates to dominate the
rostrum.

Nevertheless, party officials
were delighted when a vote to
scrap Trident, which they had
feared might be carried, was
narrowly defeated. The vote
marked the first time that a
majority of constituency dele-
gates has backed the leader-
ship on Trident.

Delegates voted by 56.35 per

cent to 43.65 per cent to
overturn a motion that called
on the next Labour govern-
ment to decommission the
Trident missile system. More
surprisingly, the constitu-
encies, which this year ac-
counted for 50 per cent of delegates,
voted 27 per cent to 23 per cent
against the motion.

A ritual demand to cut
defence spending, which used
to be a feature of Labour
conferences did not even
appear on this year's agenda,
suggesting that Mr Blair may
have finally laid to rest the
unilateralist ghost.

The defence motion was the
only remaining vote of the
week that party fixers were
concerned about. Only a week
ago they had feared that the
leadership faced defeat over
employment rights, state pen-
sions and Trident. But after a
furry of behind-the-scenes ne-
gotiations, the fixers managed
to secure a palatable motion
on employment rights, remov-

ing an explicit demand for full
rights from the first day in a
new job.

They also warded off a
defeat on pensions, despite a
vintage performance from
Baroness Castle of Blackburn,
after Gordon Brown and John
Prescott had spent hours try-
ing to convert delegates and
unionists to their cause. In the
end the Castle motion was
defeated by 66.25 per cent to
33.75 per cent.

Delegates later gave Mr
Blair a further boost with clear
support for the manifesto pro-
gramme, which enshrines
most of Labour's policy. De-
cisions on taxation will be
revealed after next month's
Budget.

Mo Mowlam, the Shadow
Northern Ireland Secretary,
used her slot in winding up the
constitutional debate to herald
the vote. "At the end of this
debate we'll be voting on
Labour's *New Life for Britain*
and we've set out five early



pledges to symbolise that New
Life," she said. "Pledges that
we will keep. Pledges that are
crystal clear. Pledges that we
won't forget."

"These pledges express our
ambition for a new kind of
society. A more democratic
society." The last 17 years did
not have to be lived again, she
said. "Our message is one of
inclusion, not exclusion. De-
mocracy not privilege, oppor-
tunity not anger and despair."

Earlier Paul Whetton, of
Newark constituency Labour
Party, complained that there
had been no time to debate a
motion on the role of MI5, the
security service. He also criti-
cised the high profile given to
constituency delegates.

"I understand time is at a
premium, but we have seen
platform speakers exceeding
their time limit. We've seen
PPCs [prospective candidates]
using this platform as a pub-
licity appearance slot."

Mr Whetton went on to say
that his resolution expressing
concern at the extension of
MI5's activities in the field of
domestic criminal investiga-
tions was "probably the most
important issue for debate
before this conference". How-
ever, the conference voted
against a debate on the recom-
mendation of the party
leadership.

A motion calling for equal
rights for homosexuals in the
Armed Forces was carried
unanimously on a show of

hands yesterday. The motion,
which had the backing of the
party's National Executive
Committee, also called for
a Labour government to make
it a criminal offence to print,
publish or broadcast material
denying the truth of the
Holocaust.

Alan Dobbie, from Hornsey
and Wood Green, proposing
the motion, told the conference
that many homosexuals had
fought in the Armed Forces
and died for Britain.

Clones are debasing politics, says Short

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

CLARE SHORT complained
yesterday that politics was
being dominated by party
clones unable to voice their
own opinions in public.

Ms Short, who lost her job
as Shadow Transport Secre-
tary after making outspoken
remarks about Labour policy,
criticised the trend of forcing
politicians to follow briefs
prepared by party spin-do-
ctors. "This is terrifying for
politics because then, if only
clones will do, and only
people who mouth words
given to them by others, what
are we going to do about the
country? Running the country
is a bit more complicated than
that," she told the BBC.

Although the Shadow Over-
seas Development Minister
insisted she was not attacking
her own party, she underlined
her independence during a
conference speech yesterday
as she urged the Labour Party
not to abandon its socialist
principles. However, this
prompted only muted ap-
plause from sections of the
audience, while many dele-
gates did not respond at all.

Pressures that Labour fails to understand

Labour ministers taking
office next spring will
face "a culture shock the
like of which they have not
known before". These words,
the most important to be
uttered in Blackpool all week,
came from Donald Dewar,
Labour's sagacious Chief
Whip, at a *Charter 88* fringe
meeting he addressed with
Ann Taylor, Shadow Leader
of the Commons, and Derek
Foster, who shadows the Cab-
inet Office. Mr Dewar com-
pared his normal reaction of
sleeping for 48 hours after an
election to the intense activity
that will be required if Labour
takes office. There will be
barely seven to ten days to sort
out legislative bids and aspi-
rations before agreeing priori-
ties for a Queen's Speech.

Provided the election is held
next spring, an incoming gov-
ernment would have the same
advantage the Tories had
after their four election victo-
ries — an extra-long parlia-
mentary session, lasting until
November 1998. This provides
scope for the programme to be
launched over several months
rather than all at once in the
late autumn. Ministers will
have the whole summer to get
things in order, to discuss and
draft Bills with their civil
servants, including the main
constitutional measures, be-
fore publication in October or
November. That also allows
more time for any decision on
the single currency since the
intention to bring in the
necessary preliminary legisla-
tion would not have to be
announced until the autumn.

A Blair government would
try to make an early mark and
establish momentum during
the short summer session via
an interim Budget and legisla-
tion on referendums on Scot-
tish and Welsh devolution. A
Gordon Brown Budget would
leave the overall spending
plans inherited from the To-
ries in place but would in-
clude whatever tax changes
for the better-off are agreed
after this November's Budget,
the windfall levy on utilities
and measures to help the
young unemployed, plus, pos-
sibly, the moves to reduce top
marginal rates for the low
paid. The main Budget will
come in November, though
Labour is reconsidering the
current structure of the uni-
fied Budget, incorporating

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

both tax and spending plans,
in view of the problems posed
for parliamentary manage-
ment and scrutiny.

The most contentious early
item would be the Bill on the
devolution referendums. They
are being held to call the
Tories' bluff by undermining
the case for prolonged parlia-
mentary opposition, in the
Lords as much as the Com-
mons, and to prevent a repeti-
tion of a 1910 style confronta-
tion. The Labour leadership
believes that a paving Bill on
the referendums can be got
through before the summer
recess. Following time for "de-
cent debate but not trench
warfare", with the ballots held
in about a year's time.

By tradition, constitutional
Bills are discussed on the
floor of the Commons, though
Labour may try to get some of
the more detailed schedules
discussed "upstairs" in a
standing committee following
the precedent of the changed
treatment of the annual Fi-
nance Bill in the late 1960s.
However, Mr Dewar and
Mrs Taylor accept that more
fundamental reforms to Com-
mons procedures which she
has proposed, such as allow-
ing more scope both for pre-
legislative scrutiny and for
carrying Bills over from one
session to the next, cannot be
regarded as a short-term expe-
dient but will have to be
discussed between the parties
and will take time to
implement.

A significant in show-
ing how Labour is
preparing for office
has been the evidence in
Blackpool of the changed
views of constituency dele-
gates. Local parties, previous-
ly bastions of the Left and
unilateralism, voted by nearly
two to one against Barbara
Castle's pension proposals
and voted, more narrowly, for
the retention of Trident. That
would have been inconceivable
even three years ago. There is
a new Labour Party, but I am
not sure it, or its leaders, really
understands the pressures of
office, or can ever do so in
opposition.

PETER RIDDELL

Robertson renews devolution pledge

By JILL SHERMAN

GEORGE ROBERTSON yes-
terday defended the decision
taken by the Labour leader-
ship this summer to hold a
referendum on Scotland's con-
stitutional future as delegates
urged the Shadow Cabinet to
campaign on a "yes" vote for a
tax-varying parliament.

The Shadow Scottish Secre-
tary pledged to "finish John
Smith's unfinished business"
and legislate for a Scottish
parliament in the first year of
a Labour government. "A
parliament built on the stron-
gest foundations of all — the
democratic will of the Scottish
people expressed through a
referendum."

Mr Robertson made clear
that a Labour government
would not renege on plans for

home rule. "We mean busi-
ness. It's going to happen and
that's why taking tough
decisions now makes sense, how-
ever bumpy and painful this
may be." The Tories would try
to use the House of Lords to
block Labour's reforms, he
said. "The very fact that they
are forced to wield the blunt
broadsword of the backwoods
battalions of the Dukes, the
Earls and the Viscounts shows
that they have lost the demo-
cratic argument and they
know it."

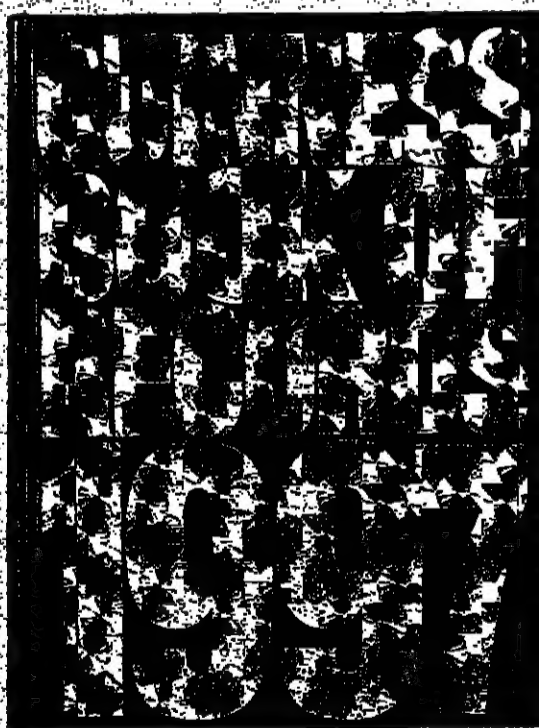
"So let me throw down the
gauntlet today. If they use the
power of the peers — we will
use the power of the people
and the people will prevail."

See Cameron, page 18

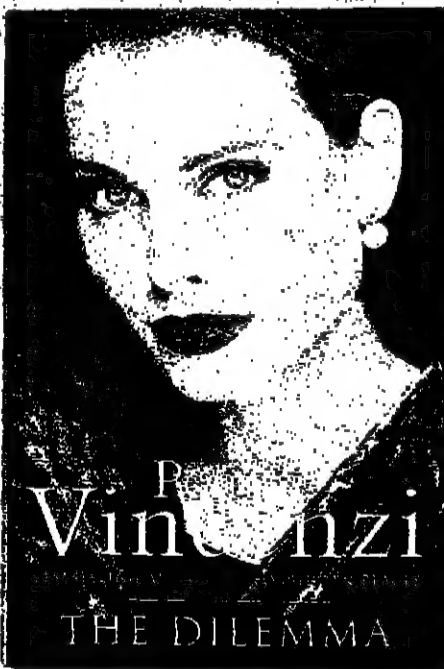
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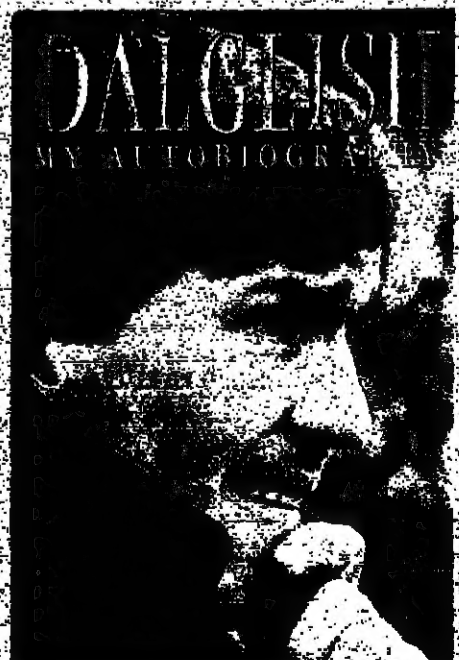
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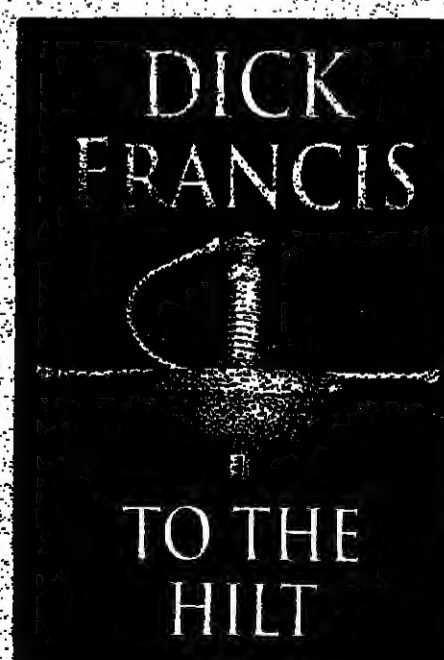
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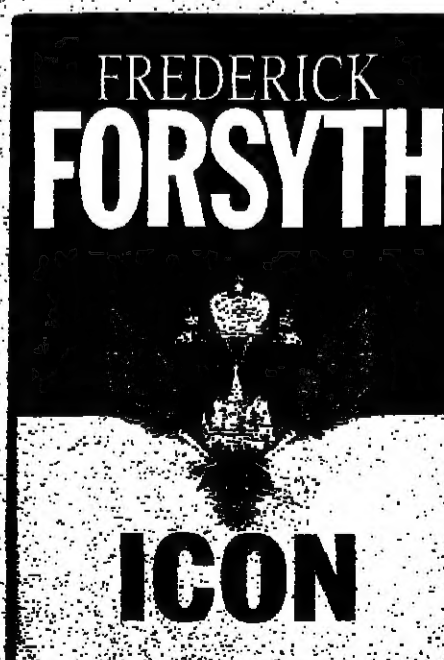
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Accused told police he panicked

Murdered student's photos 'found at lorry driver's home'

By RICHARD DUCE

PHOTOGRAPHS belonging to the French student Celine Figard were found hidden at the home of the lorry driver charged with her murder, a court was told yesterday.

Police also discovered a testimonial for Mlle Figard, 19, written in French, and a heavily bloodstained mattress alleged to have come from the lorry cab of Stuart Morgan, 37, said David Farrer, QC, for the prosecution.

Mr Morgan told police he had panicked when Mlle Figard was reported missing. He hid her belongings when he realised he was the last man to see her alive after offering her a lift from a service station in Berkshire last December. She had forgotten to take her possessions after consenting to have sex in his cab, he claimed.

He said she was alive and well when he dropped her off but gave no explanation for the bloodstained mattress. Mr Farrer told Worcester Crown Court yesterday that Mr Morgan had consistently lied about meeting Mlle Figard until he was picked out at an identity parade by another driver, who saw the French

girl negotiating a lift with him at Chieveley service station. Only then did he change his story to admit that he had picked up Mlle Figard, but denied all knowledge of any rape or murder. By now police had also told him that his semen probably matched samples taken from the body of Mlle Figard, who was making her way to Hampshire to spend Christmas with a relative.

The first police interview with Mr Morgan was purely routine, two days after the French girl's body was discovered close to a lay-by near Worcester on December 29. She had disappeared ten days earlier. Detectives were attempting to trace the drivers of white Mercedes lorries similar to that driven by the suspect, said Mr Farrer.

On January 31, Mr Morgan was subjected to a more detailed interview and asked to provide a photograph of the times around Mlle Figard's disappearance and the discovery of her body. He claimed the records were with an analyst and he also refused to provide police with a DNA sample until he had spoken to

a solicitor. A week later he produced a tachograph record, allegedly fabricated, which showed he had not been near Worcester when Mlle Figard's body was found.

On February 17, the court was told, Mr Morgan was arrested at his home in Poole, Dorset. An intensive examination by forensic scientists of his lorry cab found traces of blood which matched that of Mlle Figard. Mr Morgan attempted to explain away the bloodstains by saying he often cut himself.

A meticulous search of his house discovered the photographs in a gap between his garage and garden walls. Adhesive tape found in his garage also matched marks found on the wrists of Mlle Figard.

The first witness, Celine Garret, a close friend of Mlle Figard, told the jury she did not believe the student — described as "responsible and caring" — would have sex with someone she hardly knew.

Mr Morgan, married with a young son, denies murdering Mlle Figard between December 18 and 30 last year. The trial continues.



Pigeons who earn the gratitude of tourists, but not of Government, beneath a Trafalgar Square statue yesterday

Birdmen threaten battle of Trafalgar

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

ANIMAL activists who blockaded ports exporting live calves yesterday threatened to fight for the pigeons of Trafalgar Square. "We will use all means necessary to defend the lives of these innocent creatures," Paul Thompson, of London Animal Action, said. "Any pest control company that kills pigeons in Trafalgar Square will be targeted by animal rights activists."

Mr Thompson and other protesters milled around the square, asking visitors to sign a petition in defence of the birds. The Department of National Heritage is

considering a report on controlling the pigeon population by methods which include shooting and poisoning. A spokesman said: "There is a feeling that the population has grown to unacceptable levels."

Mr Thompson said: "There is no evidence people are catching diseases from the birds and the amount of waste left behind by pigeons is nothing compared with the rubbish left behind by human visitors." Pigeons are also blamed for damage to buildings and statues, but Mr Thompson said far more damage was caused by traffic.

Another option is to withdraw the licensed feed seller, Bernard Rayner,

whose family has sold feed to tourists for three generations, said yesterday that as babies, he had crawled among the birds without suffering ill effect. Most of the litter came from illegal portrait painters and other vendors, he said.

Mr Rayner said that if his licence was withdrawn, tourists would bring food themselves and the area would be frequented by "spivs and pirate seed-sellers".

Tourists posed for photographs covered in the flapping, feeding birds. Linda Jordan from Pensacola, Florida, said: "They should leave them alone. They are nature and they are fun. They are a symbol of London."

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Dry' town to vote on Sunday opening

Drinkers in the last "dry" town in Western Europe, Porthmadog, yesterday won the right to vote on whether their pubs can open their doors on Sundays.

A bylaw in the North Wales seaside town can only be voted on every seven years. Supporters of a change in the law collected 500 signatures calling for the issue to be put to the vote, before a deadline of midnight last night. The ballot is expected to take place on November 14.

Anti-mines vigil

Aid agencies held a vigil in Trafalgar Square for the 26,000 victims of anti-personnel mines a year as officials from 40 countries began a three-day conference. The Government is campaigning for a global ban but has reserved the right to use mines.

Boy burned

A ten-year-old boy was badly burned when a metal pole he was holding touched an overhead cable at Cokerhill station in Glasgow. Stephen Masson was transferred to the intensive care unit at Yorkhill Hospital where his condition was described as very serious.

Party planner

The chief executive of the Welsh Development Agency is to help to run the millennium celebrations. Barry Hartop has been appointed chief executive designate of the Millennium Exhibition company. "It's going to be the biggest party in the world," he said.

Killer escapes

A convicted killer, described as one of the most dangerous prisoners in Scotland, has escaped during a visit to hospital. Thomas Gordon, 26, evaded prison guards while being treated for stab wounds sustained in a fight at Peterhead prison, Grampian.

Record breaker

Norris McWhirter, who founded *The Guinness Book of Records* 42 years ago with his late twin brother Ross, is resigning from Guinness Publishing. Mr McWhirter, 71, has set a record himself — it is the world's highest selling copyright book.

Waiter's trial

The trial of a Turkish waiter who "married" a Briton aged 13 has been adjourned until November 21 for her birth records to arrive. Musa Komeagac, 18, is charged with having sex with a minor. Sarah Cook, 14, of Braintree, Essex, has had a 7lb boy. (AP)

Note worthy

A ten shilling note signed in a railway carriage by the signatories of the 1919 Treaty of Versailles, which ended the terms of peace after the First World War, sold for £920 at an auction at Spink's in London. It was bought by a banknote collector from Essex.

Dixons

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Lottery fund helps in £5m acquisition of 3,150 paintings as gallery is gifted contemporary works

Tate buys 'unparalleled' collection of watercolours

BY DALYA ALBERGE

THE Tate Gallery has acquired a major collection of 3,150 British watercolours, and another of 56 contemporary works.

The Oppé Collection, which includes works by Bonington, Constable and Cotman, is one of the most significant holdings of watercolours in private hands. It has been purchased for £5 million with help from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The contemporary works have been donated by Janet Wolfson de Botton, the daughter of Lord Wolfson. They include paintings, sculptures and photographs by artists such as Andy Warhol and Gilbert and George, which have been valued at £2.3 million.

The Oppé Collection was put together by Paul Oppé (1878-1957), a distinguished scholar and collector, during the early decades of the 20th century. Nicholas Serota, the Tate's director, said: "There has never been anything on the scale of this acquisition. In terms of size, the Oppé Collection is unparalleled. Oppé is credited with having discovered a number of watercolourists, including Alexander Cozens, who are now regarded as pivotal figures."

The collection's greatest strength is the 18th-century landscape watercolours and



The collections include a Warhol self-portrait and Francis Towne's *The Source of the Arveiron*



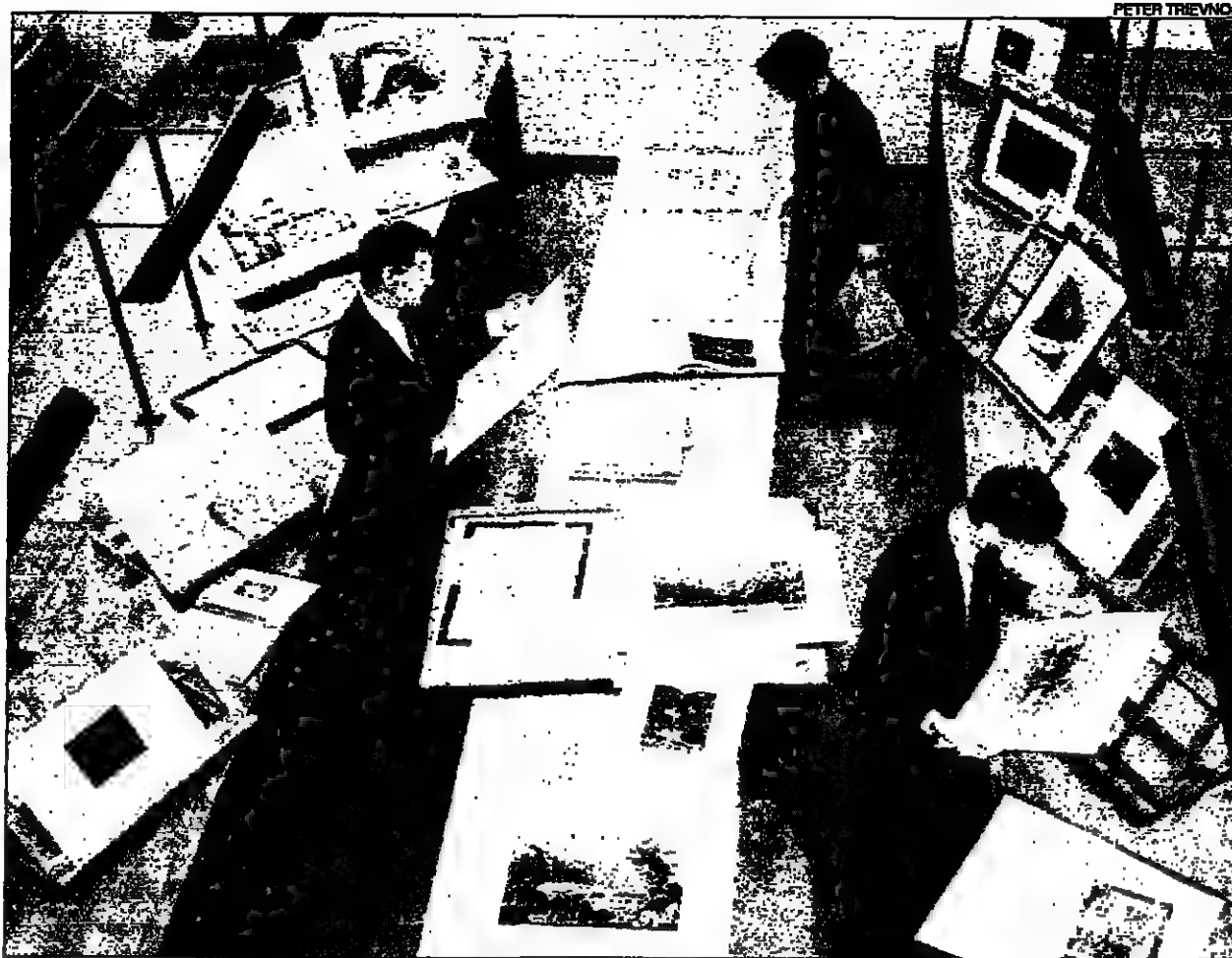
drawings that reflect the golden age of the British watercolour school. Many are views of Italy and Switzerland produced in the era of the grand tour by artists such as Richard Wilson, Francis Towne and Alexander Cozens's son, J.R. Cozens.

After Oppé's death the works remained in his family. Their acquisition, which was negotiated with the family through Sotheby's, was made possible with £3.77 million from the heritage lottery fund and £100,000 from the National Art Collections Fund, Britain's largest art charity.

Ms Wolfson de Botton, who was born in 1952, has been collecting contemporary art since 1976, when she picked up an abstract in orange and green by John Hoyland to decorate a new house.

In what Mr Serota described as an extraordinarily generous gift and "one of the most significant private collections of contemporary art in Britain", she has donated a late Warhol self-portrait painted in 1986; a floor piece juxtaposing zinc and steel squares by Carl André, best known for his pile of bricks at the Tate; and an assemblage of slate by Richard Long.

The Tate will show 100 works from the Oppé Collection in September next year and eventually intends to make the whole collection accessible to the public.



Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate, left, and staff examine some of the works from the Oppé Collection

Windfall of tiny apples in store

WEEKEND SHOPPING

A SUPERMARKET chain will tomorrow give away English apples to children in protest at European Union legislation that says they are too small to be sold.

Asda will give a Cox apple to the first 1,000 children visiting each of its stores. EU legislation says that apples with a diameter of less than 55mm cannot be sold. Allan Leighton, Asda's chief executive, said: "These apples are full of flavour and vitamins, and are ideal for children."

"We won't be beaten by a ridiculous rule from Brussels, so if we cannot sell the apples we'll happily give them away to children."

Meanwhile, fish and shellfish remain in plentiful supply at reasonable prices. Among the best buys are smoked haddock, cod, hake, skate and plaice. Mackerel is abundant and good quality.

Promotions include:

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□ Waitrose: Chicken breast fillets £6.95 for six, Romano potatoes 20p a lb, supersweet pineapple £1.09 each, Waitrose cornflakes 99p per 750g.
□ Sainsbury: chicken £5.99 per

2.5 kg, bone in pork chop £2.25 per 450g, smoked bacon £1.49 per 200g, mild Cheddar £1.59 a lb, British crumbed ham 69p a qtr lb, special mixed vegetables £1.39 per 680g, loose tomatoes 49p a lb.

□ Sainsbury: pork tenderloin £8.28 a kg, fresh turkey 99p a lb, beef £1.88 a lb, fresh Somerset carrot and coriander soup 49p per 450g, Somerset chocolate mousse 54p for 6 cartons, loose Italia grapes 39p a lb.

□ M&S: juniper turkey £2.42 per 100g, Black Forest ham £2.33 per 100g, turkey and cranberry pie £1.71 per 100g, tabouleh £1.75 per 100g.
□ Co-Op: Cherry Valley chicken Tikka £2.49 per 320g, Ribena £3.99 per two litres, Birds Eye Original Vegetable Quarter Pounders 79p per 452g, Birds Eye Crispy Potato Fritters 99p per 680g.

□ Tesco: Silverdale of beef £4.29 a kg, boneless leg of pork £3.45 a kg, four skinless chicken fillets £3.25 per 540g, Royal Gala apples £3.99 a lb, rainbow trout £1.99 a lb, salmon steaks £1.97 a lb, Tesco 12 mini croissants 89p.

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Clinton keeps his footing after summit slip-up

BY MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON AND
CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

REPUBLICANS criticised President Clinton's handling of the Middle East summit yesterday, but his failure to achieve any dramatic breakthroughs seemed unlikely to dent his huge poll lead barely a month before election day.

Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, called the summit a "photo-op press conference where nothing was achieved". Senator Richard Lugar called it "a summit that did not work". The New York Times fuelled their accusations by reporting that Mr Clinton, despite considerable argument, had failed to persuade

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, to agree either a firm date for resuming talks on Jerusalem's future, a firm deadline of 60 days for reaching an accord on withdrawing Israeli troops from Hebron, or to close—even temporarily—the Jerusalem tunnel whose opening sparked last week's clashes.

Mr Clinton certainly did not obtain the big boost he would have enjoyed had the Israelis and Palestinians resolved any of the disputes that brought them to the brink of war. But provided there is no new eruption of violence in the West Bank or Gaza, he probably achieved just enough to satisfy an electorate that is largely indifferent to foreign affairs.

He argued, justifiably, that he had managed to get Mr Netanyahu and

Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian Authority President, talking directly and meaningfully to each other for the first time. American officials said they swapped war stories and Mr Netanyahu began calling Mr Arafat his "friend and partner".

Mr Clinton was able to announce further talks beginning in Israel on Sunday. Less apparent but even more important, he helped to avert a complete collapse of the Middle East peace process. "Imagine what we would be reading in the press or seeing on the news if Chairman Arafat and King Hussein [of Jordan] and Prime Minister Netanyahu had not come here," he said at his post-summit press conference.

In Jerusalem, analysts noted that President Clinton's presidential

skills had failed to disguise the yawning gap between the two sides, and that over the key issue of Israel's long-delayed troop withdrawal from Hebron time has become of the essence.

Ron Ben Yishai, a leading military commentator, issued a warning that two main dangers had emerged on the eve of Sunday's talks. The first is that the Palestinians will make demands Israel cannot agree to, or that Israel will insist on minutiae that will cause the talks to stall. In such an event, Mr Ben Yishai predicted, Mr Arafat would instantly renew the "confrontation" with Israel and riots would break out again. "The other danger," Mr Ben Yishai added, "is that the Islamic opposition will make a special effort in the next

few days to renew attacks in Israel and the occupied territories in order to torpedo the talks at the very outset. Assessment officials expect this to happen and the defence forces are preparing for such an eventuality. But the past shows that, even under such circumstances, it is very hard to stop suicide bombers." □ Tel Aviv. The assassin of Yitzhak Rabin, his brother, and a third religious Jew were described as "sons of evil" as they were sentenced to prison terms ranging from five to 12 years for plotting the Prime Minister's murder. Yigal Amir, 26, is serving a life term for killing Rabin last November to try to halt Middle East peace moves. The three were convicted last month in a separate conspiracy trial. (Reuters)

Hamas calls for uprising by Muslim worshippers

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

IN A new attempt to sabotage the faltering Middle East peace process, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, yesterday called on the 2.2 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem to head from the mosques after weekly prayers today to "total confrontation" with Israeli troops and settlers.

The call for a new intifada came as a tense calm prevailed in advance of Sunday's peace talks agreed at the Washington summit. Security chiefs from Yassir Arafat's Palestinian Authority have vowed to try to keep protesters under control despite bitter disappointment at the failure of Israel to make concessions.

Hamas, the group mainly responsible for the suicide attacks in February and March in which nearly 60 Jews were killed, said in a message to an international news agency: "Hamas Movement calls our heroic people to come out after Friday prayers in marches and total confrontations against the forces of the Zionist occupation and its herds of settlers."

Israeli security sources said that forces would remain on full alert to counter any attempt at fresh violence, with al-Aqsa mosque on the Temple Mount in occupied east Jerusalem, close to the entrance to the disputed

archaeological tunnel, being the main feared flashpoint. Three Palestinians were shot dead and more than 60 wounded during riots after noon prayers last Friday at Islam's third holiest shrine.

Separate leaflets issued by Hamas in Gaza also urged Palestinians to ignore Mr Arafat's calls for calm before the renewed talks on the delayed Israeli withdrawal from Hebron. Leading members of the Palestinian Security Service informed Israel that they would try to deal with any attempt to storm Israeli positions, which have been reinforced by scores of tanks and snipers backed by Cobra attack helicopters.

In what was interpreted as a threat to resume suicide attacks against Jewish targets, Ghazi Hamad, a spokesman for Hamas in Gaza, said: "The situation is very black and the future is darker. We will not keep silent and we are ready to use any means to get our rights."

Last night, Palestinian anger over the summit was restricted to stone-throwing in Hebron, and protests in surrounding villages. In Saeer, where an 11-year-old stone-thrower was shot dead by Israeli soldiers on Wednesday, hundreds of Palestinians burnt American flags and a poster of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister.



A Kabul mother obeying the mullahs' dress code

Taleban throws veil of constraint over Afghan girls



Christopher Thomas reports from Kabul on the females under virtual house arrest

NEXT year, at the age of ten, Sahla will start to wear a full veil, head to toe, her face covered. This is Taleban law. She will grow up tied to the home, never to play in the streets, and will talk to no boys. The first male stranger to look upon her face, nine or ten years from now, will be her husband.

What little she sees of the world beyond her front door in Kabul, the Afghan capital, will be distorted by the closely woven mesh of her burqa. The girls' school she used to attend has shut because female teachers have been ordered to stay at home and Taleban law bans her from higher education. No male doctor will ever be allowed to examine her and she may never be permitted to work outside the home.

Taleban law is hitting Kabul hard. In the conservative countryside, where women rarely venture out, most can live easily with the new order. However, many city people resent the rules of the ultra-orthodox mullahs who head what is starting to look like a government and which is likely soon to gain some international recognition.

An official American delegate is about to arrive in Afghanistan to assess that possibility. What he will find is a city at peace, but one where the intellectuals feel

trapped. Kabul is the most cosmopolitan city in the country. In the 1970s there was cinema, theatre, music and dancing—even drinking. These have long gone. Television, which showed Pakistani programmes for those able to afford a generator in this powerless city, has been banned as un-Islamic.

Only religious music is tolerated: Taleban soldiers are gathering up the ubiquitous Pakistani-made music cassettes that were hugely popular. Government employees are growing beards in accordance with Taleban orders. Female civil servants and all privately employed women, except doctors and nurses, have been ordered to stay at home while their future is decided.

Taleban law varies according to the mullah interpreting it. One will allow photographers to take his picture, another will not. A television crew filming an unmasked Western female journalist in Kabul fled from an armed mullah who exploded in rage. The mullahs are well-educated about the Koran, but few are educated in anything else.

Sahla's mother said: "We can be good Muslims without covering our faces. A lot of women have been too afraid to go outside the house since Taleban took over."

Turkish leader woos Libya

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

HARD on the heels of his controversial visit to Iran, Turkey's Islamist Prime Minister has caused consternation among his Nato allies by starting talks today in Libya with Colonel Muammar Gaddafi.

Turkish officials were in Tripoli yesterday to boost trade relations, preparing the way for Necmettin Erbakan, the Prime Minister, who arrives today after talks in

Egypt. His visit, the first to Tripoli by any Nato leader, had been strongly criticised within Turkey and abroad. Tansu Ciller, the Foreign Minister and leader of the True Path, a partner in the Islamist coalition, said the timing was wrong.

America, strongly critical of Mr Erbakan's visit to Tehran and Turkey's multi-million dollar gas pipeline deal with Iran, is agitated. Libya is subject to United Nations sanctions over the Lockerbie

bombing, and America has just passed laws mandating sanctions on companies trading with Libya and Iran.

Nato allies were yesterday playing down their consternation, but privately expressed dismay. "We are obviously watching this very closely," a British official said. However, he believed Mr Erbakan, who has promised to boost Ankara's relations with its Muslim neighbours, was engaging more in gesture politics than changing Turkish policy.

Paris 'blocks extradition'

Nairobi: Human rights groups yesterday blamed France for Cameroon's refusal to extradite the alleged "chief architect" of Rwandan genocide to face a United Nations tribunal in Tanzania (Sam Kiley writes).

The British-based African Rights and Paris-based Survival said the French Government had pressed Cameroon's President Biya to refuse to extradite Colonel Theoneste Bagosora, a Hutu.

Exodus from Emirates

Abu Dhabi: More than 132,000 expatriates from South Asian countries have left the United Arab Emirates in recent months, the Government said yesterday.

The human exodus was triggered after the oil-rich country announced an unprecedented amnesty two months ago in an attempt to flush out illegal migrants who have been blamed for a surge in crime and chaos.

Between the announcement of the amnesty and September 30, a total of 132,044 overstaying

aliens and illegal migrants have left the UAE, the interior Ministry said. Most of the deportees were from India, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran.

Encouraged by the success of the amnesty, the UAE announced last week it was extending it. A new harsher immigration law, came into force this month. The UAE, with one of the highest per capita incomes in the world at £10,645 last year, is a magnet for illegal migrants. (AFP)

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Dole attacks Clinton for suppressing drugs memo

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE, who is increasingly successful at depicting his opponent as a die-hard liberal, launched a further assault on President Clinton yesterday after the White House refused to release a memorandum from two drug enforcement officials that was said to be highly critical of his anti-drug strategy.

Louis Freeh, the director of the FBI, and Thomas Constantine, the head of the Drug Enforcement Administration, sent the letter to Mr Clinton in April last year. It was reported to contain complaints about the "lack of any true leadership" in stemming the overwhelming tide of heroin and cocaine, which Mr Freeh is said to have compared to an "all-conquering army".

The White House decision to claim executive privilege and not to release the document came as Republicans in Congress were investigating accusations that the Administration had buried a further report commissioned by the Pentagon. This also suggested that Mr Clinton's drug policy had failed.

Jack Quinn, the White House counsel, said Mr Clinton had decided not to comply with the subpoena because the note had been prepared for "the President alone". He said it contained confidential law enforcement options.

Mr Dole, who has made drugs and drug-related crime a key element of his election campaign, accused Mr Clinton of hiding behind the shield of his office. "Release the memo," Mr President, the American people have the right to know the full details of your failure in the war against drugs," he said.

The senator has recently been painting Mr Clinton as a liberal who has moved steadily to the centre to appease a conservative electorate. As a result, 44 per cent of Americans now view him as a liberal President compared with 36 per cent in August. The war on drugs, which Mr Clinton eff-



ELECTION '96

actively abandoned after his election, is one of the strongest issues for the Republicans. A federal report earlier this year showed that drug use by teenagers had leapt by 33 per cent since 1994 and 80 per cent since Mr Clinton took office. His Administration, claiming that treatment was the best cure, had cut interdiction efforts by nearly \$630 million (£406 million) since 1992.

The memorandum, said to have been delivered personally by Mr Freeh, resulted in some increased pressure on Colombia, and earlier this year Mr Clinton quietly restored the budget for the drug war's office. He appointed General Barry McCaffrey, a retired army officer and commander in Desert Storm, to head the Administration's fight against drugs.

Few in Washington believe, however, that the appointment resulted from anything other than election-year politics. General McCaffrey is at the centre of a Capitol Hill inquiry into whether he had ordered Admiral Robert Kramek, the national interdiction co-ordinator from the US Coast Guard, to suppress a Pentagon report which concluded that Mr Clinton's strategy was flawed.

Both men told Congress the report was under review but hoped it would be made public in the near future. The three authors said they were denied any discussion of the research after Admiral Kramek said General McCaffrey deemed their findings to be "utter nonsense".



A U-wa chief, Bisico, and his family at their palm hut in the highlands near Cubará

Andes tribe makes suicide threat to halt oil drilling

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN CUBARÁ, NORTHEAST COLOMBIA

A TRIBE of Indians living at the foot of snow-capped peaks in Colombia's easternmost Andean mountains is threatening to commit mass suicide if petroleum companies start drilling for oil on its ancestral lands.

"If the white man starts making holes and sucking the veins of our most revered Mother Earth we will have no choice but to bring our lives to an end," Bertio Cobaira, chief of the semi-nomadic U-wa Indians, told the Colombian parliament last month.

"We will fight and keep them out for as long as we can. But I warn that, if strangers come and invade what is most sacred to us, my people will have to go to the other world."

The U-wa tribe, numbering 6,000 Indians and among the most traditional of Colombia's surviving indigenous groups, has until now had almost no contact with Western society and lives in tiny villages made up of cone-shaped palm huts, hunting

animals and picking forest fruits for subsistence.

The Indians made their "suicide" threat after a decision by the Government to hand out an oil exploration licence to the American-owned Occidental Petroleum.

Occidental, Colombia's state-owned oil company, also has its eyes set on the forest-covered area above the village of Cubará, near the border with Venezuela, because it has long been known as an oil-rich area. Half the area included in the licence handed out by the Ministry of Environment to Occidental is within the 200,000-acre territory the Government gave back to the Indians in 1991 as a "humanitarian" gesture to restore to indigenous groups some ancestral lands.

Legally the U-wa Indians have to be consulted before oil can be explored or drilled. "We have repeatedly said 'No' and made it clear that any kind of tampering with our land goes against the core of our traditions, but our cries

seem to be falling on deaf ears," Chief Cobaira said.

"The Government went ahead and handed out the licence without consultation with the U-wa. It is against the law and against a special clause in the Constitution which makes a point of preserving the rights of indigenous tribes," Miguel Vásquez, a human rights lawyer, said. The debate has caused splits in the Government. Last week the Interior Ministry said oil exploration on U-wa land was "totally unconstitutional". But President Samper seems keen to let in the oil firms. While the row goes on, Occidental has begun seismic explorations in the area.

The Government seems to be encouraging exploration at the expense of the Indians in an effort to generate much-needed funds through a resource other than cocaine.

Meanwhile, the Indians have mounted guards, with spears and arrows, outside the village of Cubará, to block entry to white people.

WORLD SUMMARY

Poll costs four lives in India

Delhi: At least four people were killed in clashes between rival political groups yesterday as brisk balloting marked the second phase of voting in Uttar Pradesh, India's largest state, agency reports said. Eighty people were wounded in the violence.

Three died when supporters of the Hindu right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party and a regional peasant party exchanged gunshots and attacked each other with bamboo sticks in two separate encounters near Muzaffarnagar, 95 miles east of Delhi. In Fatehpur near by, a BJP activist was killed.

Nearly 55 per cent of potential voters took part in balloting for the state legislature — the first poll test for the national governing coalition, in power since May. (AP)

Two held over Belgian killing

Brussels: Two Tunisians suspected of shooting dead André Cools, the Belgian politician, more than five years ago have been arrested, the Belgian Foreign Ministry said. In Tunis, where the two men are held, sources close to the investigation said the two had admitted killing Cools, one-time kingmaker of the Socialist Party, in a mafia-style contract said to be worth about £16,000. (Reuters)

Britain suffers culture gap

London: Britain spent far less on the promotion of the English language and British culture than France and Germany, and relied too much on historical connections and goodwill, Sir Martin Jacoby, the chairman of the British Council, told its annual general meeting (Michael Bayton writes). He called on the Foreign Office to double its funding to a minimum of 1 per cent of public spending.

Tutu to summon former minister

Cape Town: Adriaan Vlok, the former Police Minister, will become the first member of an apartheid-era Cabinet to be forced to testify before Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission on human rights abuses. A summons will be issued today. (Reuters)

Shot in the dark

Peking: Chinese warships on night exercises in the East China Sea hit more targets in the dark than in daylight, the Press Digest said, in "an historic first for naval warship cannon attacks". (Reuters)

Car strike hits Canada

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

NEARLY 15,000 car workers went on strike yesterday against General Motors of Canada, the country's largest vehicle maker.

The dispute centres on the company's attempt to contract out more work to less expensive, less unionised shops. The strike has closed a major plant in Oshawa, east of Toronto,

and another at St Therese, near Montreal, and could close more across the country.

Observers believe that negotiations with the Canadian Automobile Workers' Union were suspended on Tuesday because GM's US parent company wants to reach an agreement in America before it settles in Canada.

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Chinese reject Patten appeal

BY JAMES PRINGLE

PEKING yesterday rebuffed Chris Patten's appeal not to disband Hong Kong's elected legislature, saying the problem "has already been resolved".

A Chinese Foreign Ministry statement, issued a day after the colony's Governor, in his last annual policy address, had called the proposed action by Peking to disband the legislature "unnecessary as well as provocative", dismissed Mr Patten's words and said there should be no more speeches on the subject.

The statement also insisted that the appointed "provisional legislature" which China would set up to replace the existing Legislative Council, elected last year under an extended franchise introduced by the Governor, was aimed at ensuring a smooth transition to Chinese rule.

Peking insists the current legislature could not serve out its term, a process known in Hong Kong as a "through train", beyond the transfer of sovereignty on July 1, 1997.

Peking-backed newspapers in Hong Kong said yesterday that the Governor's speech was unwarranted and an attempt to extend British influence in the colony after the handover next year.

Last night Mr Patten reiterated that Britain would mobilise international support to press Peking into keeping its treaty promises if problems surfaced after the British pullout.

Peking due to free 'Gang of Four's poisonous writer'

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

YAO WENYUAN, whose "poison pen" helped to launch the Cultural Revolution that devastated China, is due for release on Sunday after a 20-year prison sentence.

Yao, a former member of the Gang of Four which tried to seize power after the death of Mao Tse-tung in 1976, was an aide of the late Jiang Qing, Mao's ambitious wife who led the Gang. It is inconceivable he will be allowed to resume his writing career, given the secrets he knows about the Cultural Revolution and Mao's role in those "ten years of chaos" from 1966 to 1976.

Mao used Yao, now 65, to topple his political foes, and Yao did this with what was later known as his "poison pen". It was Yao's criticism of a play by Wu Han, a former Deputy Mayor of Peking, that was the touchpaper for the Cultural Revolution's most violent phase. The drama appeared to be a veiled defence of Peng Dehuai, the

disgraced Defence Minister still revered today by ordinary Chinese for daring to criticise Mao's "Great Leap Forward" of 1958-62 — the policy which resulted in a famine that killed 28 million people. Yao called the play "a poisonous weed" and Wu was disgraced.

In late 1972, Yao was the only person mentioned by Chou En-lai, then the Prime Minister, while discussing with 22 American editors the issue of succession in China. But Yao lacked a powerbase in the military. At that time, I frequently saw Yao at receptions; then, he was number six in the leadership stakes.

Yao linked up with Jiang and the other two members of the Gang of Four — Zhang Chunqiao and Wang Hongwen — a month after Mao's death. At his 1981 trial a diary item produced in evidence quoted Yao as saying: "Why can't we shoot a few counter-revolutionary elements? After all, dictatorship is not like embroidering flowers."

Yao was jailed for 20 years for the attempt to seize power. The sentence was to run from the date of the Gang's arrest on October 6, 1976, enabling his release on Sunday.

A spokeswoman for China's Ministry of Public Security confirmed that Yao was still in prison. She said she was "sure he will be released when sentence is completed".

Of the other Gang members, Jiang committed suicide in prison in 1991, while Wang died a year later. There have been unconfirmed reports that Zhang is also dead, leaving Yao as the last survivor.

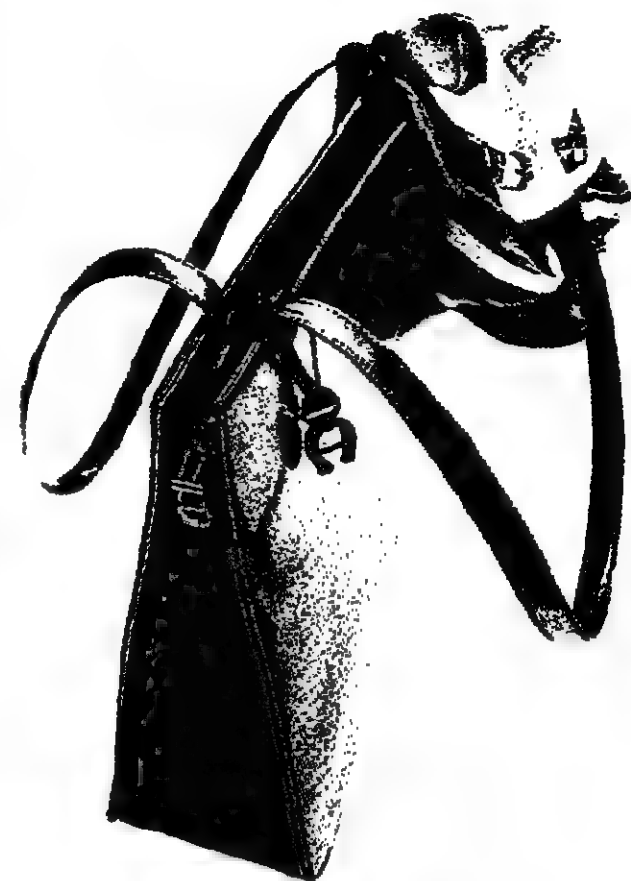


Yao: helped to launch Cultural Revolution

Letters, page 19

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Dini doubts Italy can carry out currency pledge

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

A WEEK after Italy astonished Europe by launching an audacious bid to meet the Maastricht single currency criteria, Lamberto Dini, the Foreign Minister, yesterday publicly cast doubt on the wisdom of the new policy.

There would have to be a "collective evaluation" by the European Union as a whole on whether it "might not be better" to delay the single currency timetable, he said.

Signor Dini's remarks will reverberate at this weekend's European Union summit in Dublin. He suggested that other countries such as France were also unprepared, and that the criteria on which countries were judged should be based on their economic performance in 1998 rather than 1997, if not later.

Until last Friday, when the Italian Cabinet adopted a radical deficit-slashing budget, Rome had been pushing for a delay, albeit discreetly. Signor Dini has long argued that Italy cannot meet the criteria in time, and the timetable should be "adjusted".

Rifts have appeared in the Centre-Left Government led by Romano Prodi, who appears to have overruled Signor Dini's doubts. There is growing alarm in France and Germany over the instability that might result if Italy joins before it is ready. Professor Prodi admitted this week that even the budget agreed by his Cabinet would not reduce the budget deficit to 3 per cent of gross domestic product, as required by Maastricht.

Officials also admit privately that Italy cannot meet the criteria in time on other tar-

gets such as inflation and unemployment. But the Italian push to qualify is driven by a political desire not to be left behind by rivals such as Spain.

President Chirac last night began a two-day fence-mending summit in Naples with Signor Prodi, after the French leader's woundingly brusque dismissal of Italian attempts to meet the single currency criteria. But the Franco-Italian row — the lowest point in relations for a year — left a bad taste on the eve of the Dublin talks, and the two sides remained at odds over the planned re-entry of the lira to the European Monetary System, likely to occur, if Italy has its way, at the start of 1997.

France says the lira is unstable, and is damaging French exports in key sectors such as textiles. Italian officials said this view of the lira was "outdated", and retorted that French "creative accounting" disguised the fact that France would also have difficulty in

meeting the criteria in time for the "first wave".

Signor Dini was asked by *La Repubblica* if last week's budget was enough to "get Italy in and keep us there". He replied: "This budget will bring us close to the 3 per cent inflation target which Maastricht requires". He admitted that being "close" to the criteria was not the same as meeting them. He said there was no question of watering down the requirements. "There will not be any allowances." But he added: "I think there will be a collective evaluation to decide whether it might not be better to push the starting date further back, so as to take into account the data of 1998 as well as 1997. It is not just us who are having to make this huge effort, the French too have their problems."

Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the Treasury and Budget Minister, yesterday defended the budget in parliament. But Silvio Berlusconi, leader of the Centre-Right opposition, said it was a "strange and crazy" budget which was "full of counting tricks". The budget raised too much revenue from taxation and not enough from spending cuts because of the Government's dependence in Parliament on the hard Left, Signor Berlusconi said.

Paris: Three trade unions of France's private doctors last night called on their members to join a one-day public sector strike set for October 17, including hospital shifts. Private sector doctors were set to strike overnight against a social security plan to cut fees for night visits. (AFP)



Dini: concerns on euro overruled by Prodi



Young Germans run with a flag bearing the coats of arms of the nation's 16 states through the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin yesterday

Germans still suffer unification hangover

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANS marked the sixth anniversary of unification yesterday, but dutiful speeches could not hide the swell of dissatisfaction in the east or unease over a huge, mounting bill for fusing the two states.

For the first time Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, chose to be out of the country on unification day — he was in Dublin — and his pre-recorded television address to the nation was a passionless plea for harder work. A report released by the Economics

Ministry shows why: unification has cost more than DM1,000 billion (about £400 billion) since 1990.

Theo Waigel's comment — "If it had not been for unification, I would probably go down in history as the most successful Finance Minister of all time" — was described by *Handelsblatt* newspaper as "rather self-serving", but it expressed a fundamental truth. West Germany would be a far more powerful economy if the Berlin Wall had not fallen.

Remarkably, east Germans are also counting the cost. A poll for the NTV television

channel showed 85 per cent felt worse off than they did six years ago and 65 per cent thought they had more differences with westerners than similarities. Other opinion polls regularly show east Germans are the least satisfied with the Bonn Government, are most angry about unemployment, most sceptical about deeper European integration, most opposed to abandoning the mark and most upset about social welfare cuts. They are no longer satisfied with earning salaries 20 per cent lower than western counterparts.

Immediately after unification, westerners dismissed such concerns as the routine whining of easterners used to the cushioning of the Communist system. No opinion polls show easterners wanting a return to a Communist state — although more than 20 per cent vote for the post-Communist Party of Democratic Socialism — and businesses have been springing up in the region. But the basic discontent is still there and likely to bubble over during this winter's wage negotiations.

Some eastern discontent could be glimpsed yesterday

in demonstrations organised by the Left. But the true unease lies deeper. The cost of unification is felt by every taxpayer who forks out for a "solidarity tax" and by every employer having to meet huge social contribution bills to pay for eastern reconstruction.

Figures compiled by the Economics Ministry are devastating: German payrolls for unification over the past six years, even after taking into account tax revenues from the east, are around DM1,000 billion.

Leading article, page 19

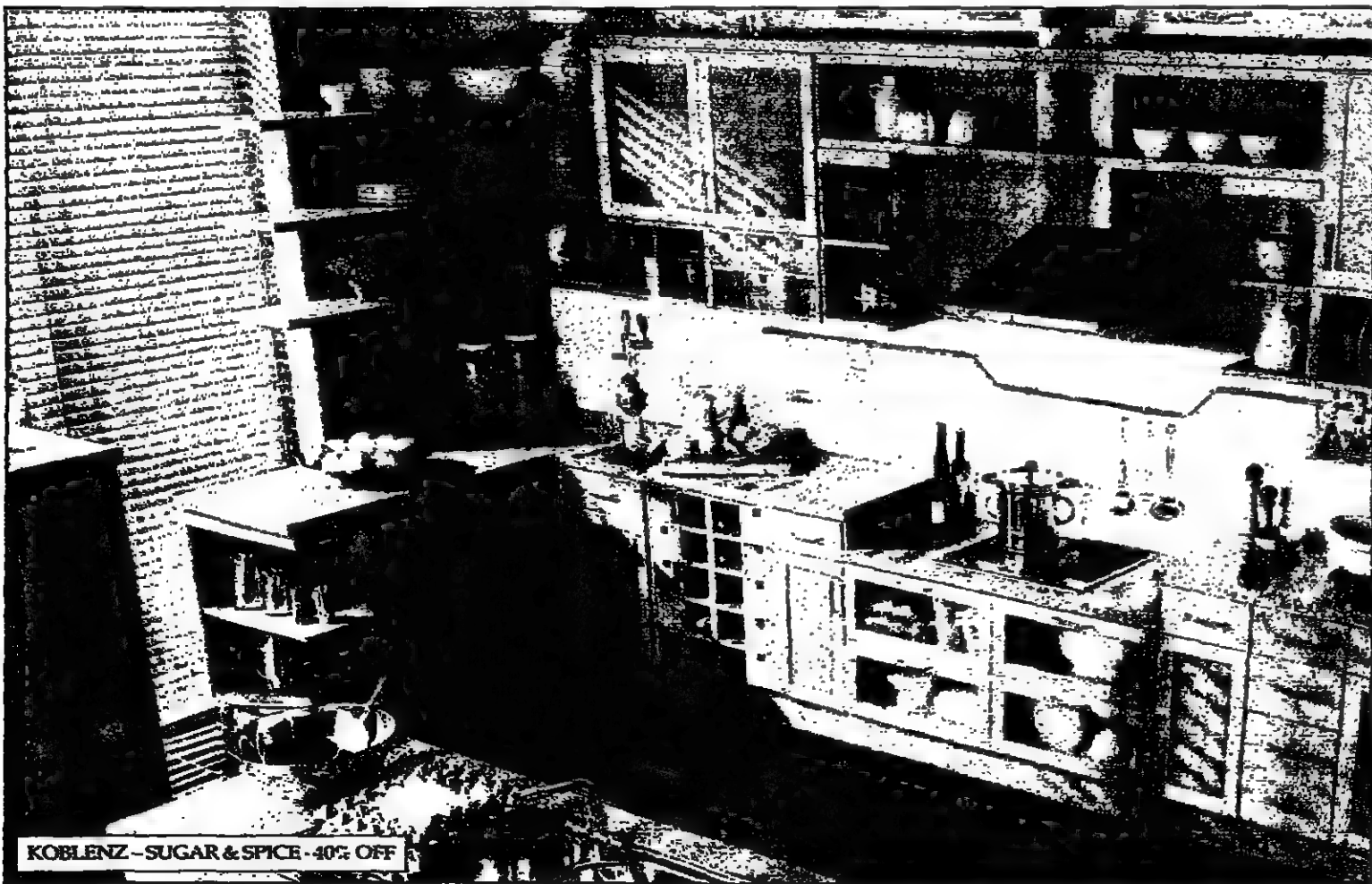
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Food for thought

Don't scrap my portrait says Yeltsin

FROM THOMAS DE WAIL IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN, who is awaiting heart surgery, reminded Russians yesterday that he was still in charge. In a radio address from a sanatorium outside the capital, he said: "Do not hurry to take down my portrait."

He added: "The country has a President — what is more, an active President." But his choice of radio, not television, as the medium and his pensive delivery were less than reassuring. Although he said he was "aware of what is happening in the country", discord is growing in Government over the military budget and the Chechnya peace deal, with officials exchanging accusations in public.

His loss of influence — he is limited to three hours' work a day as he waits to undergo a triple bypass — was underlined by a chart compiled by *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*: the newspaper said he ranked as only the third most influential politician, after Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, and Aleksandr Lebed, the security chief.

Nato envoy calls for closer Russian link

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S Ambassador to Nato gave some "Cassandra warnings" yesterday about the future of the alliance, as it develops plans to expand membership and hand more responsibility for Europe's security to the European member states.

Sir John Goulden, the Nato permanent representative, outlined five key issues for the alliance to resolve if it wanted to remain a successful security organisation in the next millennium.

Speaking about the most dramatic issue, Nato enlargement, Sir John posed the question whether opening the door to too many new members might undermine Nato as a military alliance. Nato, he said, had to work out how an alliance of 20 to 25 members could function effectively. Enlargement was on a "clear and steady course", with a decision expected at a Nato summit next spring or summer.

However, more attention was now needed, Sir John said, to strengthen the strategic partnership with Russia and Ukraine. Speaking to the Royal United Services Insti-

tute in London, he said these two relationships were probably the "key variables for European security, the two countries with which Nato's relations could oscillate most widely".

As a result of "mistakes on both sides", this was the least developed part of Nato's "out-reach" policy. He emphasised the need for more military co-operation with Russia. Moscow had signed up to Nato's Partnership for Peace scheme, but so far Russian forces had taken part in only one exercise, while most other Eastern partners had "managed a dozen or so".

Sir John said that more leading figures in Moscow had to be convinced of Nato's sincerity in wanting to develop a close security relationship with Russia.

The other "Cassandra warnings" outlined by Sir John concerned shrinking national defence programmes, burden-sharing between the United States and Europeans, Nato bureaucracy and arms co-operation.

Letters, page 19

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Irony of a poetic soul wins Nobel prize for Pole

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

WHILE celebratory vodka toasts were being raised throughout Poland yesterday, the new Nobel Laureate for Literature, Wislawa Szymborska, was characteristically shy about her award. "This is a difficult situation — I am normally a very private person," said the 73-year-old poet, insisting other Polish writers were equally deserving.

Indeed, for years the poet Zbigniew Herbert was assumed to be the Polish front-runner, with his spiky political metaphors. The choice of Szymborska over Herbert was a choice for lyricism, gentle irony and sheer simplicity of expression, while the edging-out of favourites from China and Portugal suggests the collective heart of the Swedish Academy still beats strongly for Central Europe. The Polish writer, Czeslaw Milosz, won the Literature Prize in 1980, the Czech Jaroslav Seifert in 1984, and the Russian emigre, Joseph Brodsky, was the 1987 laureate.

Szymborska is not as political as Milosz, who was very public in his support for Solidarity in its struggle against the Communist regime. But she was quick to break with the Communist Party, in 1966, when the regime started to turn against liberal thinkers such as Leszek Kolakowski and drum up anti-Semitic sentiment.

She found her natural political home in the Cracow Catholic weekly *Tygodnik Powszechny*. The newspaper, studied carefully by the Pope, was heavily censored in the Communist era and constant-

ly prodded various ungainly postwar regimes. It was always clear that Szymborska was in opposition to Communism. During the martial-law years of the 1980s, her poems were published in the underground and in the overseas Polish language press. In 1991, when receiving the Goethe Prize, she entitled her speech: "I treasure doubt."

No author could allow herself to be lashed to an ideological wagon, she said, adding that every doctrine was an artefact designed to disguise the real world. "A writer should not use this instrument, he should cope with the world by himself."

The academy's citation was for her "poetry that, with ironic precision, allows the historical and biological context to come to light in fragments of human reality". It added that, despite her rather thin output — nine major volumes of verse over the past 50 years — she had earned her informal title as the grande dame of Polish literature.

"Since 1957 — when censorship had lost its stranglehold after the thaw of the previous year — she has published a handful of slim but powerful collections of poems, a few volumes of book reviews, and a number of highly esteemed translations of earlier French poetry," it said.

Her career as a literary journalist precisely charts the zig-zags of Poland's Communist rule. From Stalin's death in 1953 to the 1981 declaration of martial law by General Wojciech Jaruzelski, she was on the editorial staff of the

literary magazine *Zycie Literackie*. Then, throughout the 1980s, she wrote highly intelligent reviews for *Tygodnik Powszechny*, some of which fell victim to the pen of Communist censors. Journalism sustained her poetry, also influenced by the translations of French baroque literature that she undertook to augment her earnings.

Szymborska, a slightly built woman who lives in a Cracow suburb, was born outside Poznan in July 1923, moving to Cracow with her parents at the age of eight.

Szymborska says that she will distribute most of her \$1.2 million (£770,000) prize to social projects.

Polish writers were overjoyed by the award. Stanislaw Lem, a science fiction writer who is a friend and neighbour of hers, said yesterday: "This proves that Polish poetry is stronger than its prose." He said the prize was richly deserved.

Philip Howard, page 18



Wislawa Szymborska, a "private person" pushed into the Nobel limelight

Physicist is toast of irreverent alternative award

By ANJANA AHLUA

BRITAIN has been honoured in the 1996 Ig Nobel Prizes, the irreverent alternative awards foisted upon those "whose achievements cannot or should not be reproduced".

An illustrious cluster of Nobel laureates gathered at Harvard University to present the awards last night. Britain was honoured with the Physics Prize, for the observation by Dr Robert Matthews, from Aston University, that toast does usually fall buttered-side down.

In "Tumbling Toast, Murphy's Law and the Fundamental Constants", published in the *European Journal of Physics*, Dr Matthews demonstrated that a slice of toast teetering on the edge of a plate or table is likely to land with the buttered side on the floor. The reason is that the spin of the toast is enough only for the slice to perform a half-somersault by the time it lands. The toast was simulated by a piece of wood with B. for butter, daubed on one side.

The Biology Prize went to a study by researchers at the University of Bergen, Norway, into "The Effects of Ale,

Garlic and Soured Cream on the Appetite of Leeches".

Professor George Goble, from Purdue University, Indiana, won the Chemistry Prize for lighting a barbecue grill in a record three seconds, using charcoal and liquid oxygen.

The organisers decided to award a Public Health Prize to another Norwegian team, for their cautionary medical report entitled "Transmission of Gonorrhoea through an Inflatable Doll".

Past winners have included a man who plucked ear mites from his pet cat and inserted them into his own ears. Last year British scientists won the Physics Prize for "Study of the Effects of Water Content on the Compaction Behaviour of Breakfast Cereal Flakes" — or why cereals go soggy.

The ceremonies are noted for their eccentricity and genuine Nobel Laureates present the awards. President Chirac of France has the chance to clear a space on his mantelpiece after winning this year's Ig Nobel Peace Prize, earned "for commemorating the fifth anniversary of Hiroshima with atomic bomb tests in the Pacific".

British publisher rushes to reprint

By GRAHAM PATTERSON

BRENDA WALKER, 62, the publisher of this year's Nobel prize-winning poetry collection, was "gobsmacked" as she sped home from Romania last night to reprint a new edition of Wislawa Szymborska's suddenly famous works.

Overnight her one-woman Forest Books imprint has moved from a publishing backwater, selling a few hundred copies of the works of obscure Eastern European poets, to a potential international bestseller. "I didn't even know Wislawa had been nominated. No one told me," she said, promising she would celebrate with a glass of champagne on the flight from Bucharest.

With her late husband, she set up the publishing company in 1984 as a hobby in the two spare garages and back bedrooms of her home in Chingford, on the borders of northeast London and Essex. As her children left home the business expanded. She has never printed more than 3,000 copies of a single edition and the advances for mainly Eastern European authors are infinitesimal.

A translator, college of higher education lecturer and mother of five, she has a passionate mission to bring the poetry and literature of Eastern Europe, mostly neglected by mainstream publishers, to British readers. Of



Walker was unaware of Szymborska nomination

the hundred or so writers she publishes, at least three, she believes, have the potential to win the Nobel prize.

"It's about time somebody noticed what we're doing," she said. "I send out review copies and they all seem to end up in secondhand bookshops." In the early years her company received a little Arts Council support, but that came to an end, and until yesterday's news the firm survived on a shoestring.

Whether she is sitting on a small fortune will depend on the fine print of her contract with Szymborska. Five hundred of the 1,000 copies printed of her work *People On a Bridge* (Forest Books £6.95) are still unsold and one single order from America yesterday was for 1,200 copies.

Serbia and Bosnia to swap envoys

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT Iztokbegovic of Bosnia and President Milosevic of Serbia agreed to establish full diplomatic relations yesterday after an extended meeting in Paris. It was their first private encounter since war erupted in the former Yugoslavia.

The Bosnian and Serb leaders agreed to set up embassies in Belgrade and Sarajevo as part of a range of measures aimed at building a lasting peace in the region.

"The time of confrontation and conflicts should be replaced with a time of construction and prosperity," they said in a joint statement.

□ Royal visit: The Princess Royal will visit British troops living in Bosnia and Croatia next week. Buckingham Palace announced yesterday. The Princess will call on three units of which she is colonel-in-chief — the Royal Corps of Signals, the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters and the Royal Logistic Corps — on October 8 and 9.

Byron villa sale makes £1.6 million

Geneva: Objects in a Geneva villa where Lord Byron once lived were sold at auction for SwFr3.2 million (£1.6 million), Christie's said yesterday.

A 19th-century Russian bronze chandelier, which fetched SwFr104,700, Flemish and Dutch oil paintings, Italian statues, French furniture and a Louis XVI Aubusson tapestry were among the 685 lots. Christie's said it was the highest result for an "on-site" sale in Switzerland.

Byron spent only the summer of 1816 in the Villa Diodati, where he wrote the third canto of his poem *Childe Harold* as well as *Prisoner of Chillon* after being moved by a visit to the medieval castle of the same name near Montreux. The poet carved his name on a pillar of the castle's dungeon which juts into Lake Geneva. The name is still visible, and many tourists carve their name into the stone.

Byron's friends Percy and Mary Shelley also lived in Geneva, where Mary Shelley began writing her novel *Frankenstein*. (Reuter)

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WILTSHIRE
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by Force Park, (Junct. 21, M1)
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Nottingham Huntingdon Street
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The gospel according to Barbara

Jesus was not the son of God and did not die on the cross, maintains Dr Barbara Thiering after her reading of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Interview by Magnus Linklater

Jesus was a resistance leader, a man who survived the crucifixion, who married and fathered children. He was a human being rather than a miracle-worker. He was an extraordinary leader of men, but he was not the son of God.

Ideas like this have pitched Dr Barbara Thiering into endless controversy. Her interpretation of the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Gospels have offended traditional Christians and exposed her to ridicule at the hands of scholars.

But her books, like *Jesus the Man* and now *Jesus of the Apocalypse* have become bestsellers, and the lectures she gives all over the world are packed.

Last month she was in Edinburgh, talking to an audience which listened with rapt attention. Her words amounted to rank heresy, but there was scarcely a raised eyebrow to indicate dissent. Afterwards, only one disenchanted voice challenged her research.

Yet what she has to say is surely absurd. Jesus, she believes, was no solitary preacher on the shores of Lake Galilee, but a central figure in a revolutionary faction of Essene priests, a breakaway Jewish sect who lived between 150 BC and 70 AD and were dedicated to the overthrow of the Roman Empire.

He did not die on the cross, but was rescued by his followers from the tomb, revived and smuggled out of Jerusalem to continue his underground mission. He married Mary Magdalene and fathered a family.

Perhaps most controversially of all, Dr Thiering claims that Jesus and Mary were later divorced, before Jesus died some time after the year 64 AD.

All this is revealed, says Dr Thiering, by a close reading of the scrolls and by applying the clues found there to the New Testament gospels.

It is the sheer sensationalism of her views — as well as the popularity of her books — that enrages conventional

scholars. They complain that she is simply distracting attention from the painstaking work being done on the Dead Sea Scrolls, and they dispute both her methods and conclusions.

At times, however, it seems as if they are fighting a losing battle. Controversy and the scrolls have gone hand in hand ever since they were discovered by Bedouins in caves at Qumran along the north-west shore of the Dead Sea in 1947.

There were rumours that the Vatican was suppressing them, because of what they revealed about the origins of Christianity.

And there has been intense jealousy ever since among

'It's childish to say Jesus walked on water'

scholars who have accused each other of withholding key texts.

A recent book went so far as to say that a massive deception had prevented 75 per cent of the scrolls ever reaching the outside world. As a result, what must rank as the most important manuscript discovery of the 20th century has engendered more heat than light.

Dr Thiering is a grey-haired, down-to-earth Australian from the University of Sydney who has worked painstakingly on the Qumran texts for 20 years and has confined her research for most of that time to academic publications with small circulations.

It was only in 1990, when the Australian Broadcasting Corporation devoted 80 minutes to a documentary called *The Riddle of the Dead Sea*

Scrolls, that she became famous — or some might say infamous. A two-hour discussion followed the broadcast, prompting a shoal of calls and letters, and opening a debate about the nature of Christianity that has divided the Church in Australia.

Since then, her books have sold in their thousands, despite attacks from other scrolls experts.

"I'm known as a stirrer in Australia," she says, "but I hope I've made people think. I'm arguing for a more grown-up religion. I believe it's childish and primitive to say that everything depends on Jesus walking on water. Christianity is more than just the cult of Jesus."

The difficulty she causes stems from the confidence she has in her own research. She believes she has dated the scrolls more accurately than anyone else, placing the most important of them squarely in the first century and therefore contemporary with the life of Jesus.

She says she has now been able to identify two of the central characters in the scrolls. The Teacher of Righteousness and the Wicked Priest can be interpreted, she claims, as John the Baptist and Jesus Christ respectively.

She argues that the four gospels are written in a code which she has cracked, allowing her to determine the true story of Jesus.

And she draws on the gnostic gospels and other sources to demonstrate that the early Christians deliberately concocted the story of a miracle-performing Christ to attract new adherents to the faith and conceal the true facts from the Romans.

At the heart of Dr Thiering's theory is a form of decoding the New Testament known as the "pesher" technique, a Hebrew word to describe the interpretation of dreams.

It is a way in which, she claims, the authors of the



Dr Barbara Thiering is at cross-purposes with the biblical experts with her view that Jesus did not die on the cross. But her books have become bestsellers

scrolls read a double meaning into parts of the Old Testament, by applying this technique to the gospels, a whole new layer of significance is revealed.

Thus, the miracle at Cana where Jesus turned water into

wine is a way of indicating that communion, where the wine was traditionally given only to Jews, was freely available to all.

Likewise the feeding of the five thousand is merely a symbol of Jesus's teaching that ordinary men rather than just Jewish elders could become ministers.

Thus far, Dr Thiering is relatively uncontroversial — indeed all she appears to be saying is that Jesus should be seen as a moderniser rather than a miracle-worker.

It is when she comes to the crucifixion and the events that followed it that she makes her most radical claims.

The code, she says, indicates that Jesus survived his crucifixion, thanks to his followers. They gave him poison on the cross (the vinegar in a sponge), which sent him into a deep coma, to all appearances dead. Later he was taken down and carried to the tomb, where he was revived by aloes, a major purgative, and myrrh, a soothing medicament.

He was then smuggled out, and brought to safety to recover.

All of this, she claims — and her methodology is nothing if not detailed — is transparent to those who understand and apply her technique.

As the Gospel says: "He who hath ears to hear, let him hear."

Or as she herself puts it: "The supernatural elements of Christianity are stripped away; it reappears in its original powerful form."

Conventional scholars, however, react in open-mouthed disbelief. "She is a complete loner among scrolls experts in the scholarly world," says Dr George Brooke of Manchester University who organised a recent symposium on the so-called Copper Scroll, attended by Dr Thiering.

"She makes identifications that simply do not take account of the evidence. I'm amazed that her books should be published," Professor Philip Davies of Sheffield University agrees. "When it comes to the Gospels, she is taking a big leap which is unstable."

There is a major difference between the pesher technique as applied to the Old Testament, and the New Testament, which most scholars agree was written in Greek for a mixed Greek, Jewish and Gentile readership.

"It's simply not like the Old Testament genre," he points out that while St John's Gospel, her main source, is indeed written in a symbolic manner, it is a very different kind of symbolism from that used either in the

scrolls or in the Old Testament. "There is simply no comparison," he says.

"Of course the Gospel narratives can be written on two levels," says Dr Brooke. "But no one would seriously go on to make the specific connections that she makes."

Maintaining that Dr Thiering is wrong is one thing. Proving it is another. Her reaction to all criticism is to argue that no one has understood or followed her technique.

"I'd love someone to show me where I've gone wrong," she protests disarmingly.

"So far no one has done so. Instead a lot of my work is gradually being accepted."

"Nonsense," explodes Dr Brooke. "It's not accepted by anybody. These are just bizarre theories sold to the media."

Professor Davies is milder in his response, but still expresses frustration. "There's simply not enough common ground to argue about," he says. "No one even accepts her initial premise — that the texts she is discussing were written in code."

"We're all working on the scrolls like ancient texts, which is how it should be done. We've better things to do than spend time proving something wrong that is really irrelevant."

No one really doubts the importance of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

As Robert Eisenman, one of the principal experts in the field has written: "They contain the most precious information on the thoughts and currents of Judaism and the ethos that gives rise to Christianity in the first century BC to the first century AD."

The irony is, however, that nearly 50 years after the discovery of the scrolls, most ordinary people are currently learning about them through the books of Barbara Thiering rather than from the dustier tomes in which they are discussed by the leading experts.

The difficulty with "disproving" the Thiering line, as both Dr Brooke and Professor Davies point out, is that it would be a hugely time-consuming exercise and a diversion from their own research. It would also mean accepting certain assumptions which she makes but which they find unacceptable.

But unless scholars can demonstrate her research to be wrong, Dr Thiering's version of the story of Jesus will continue to entice a wide and susceptible readership.

FAITH AND HOPE BUT NO CLARITY

The consensus view: The scrolls reveal the existence of a breakaway Jewish sect, the Essenes, living between 150 BC and 70 AD. The "Teacher of Righteousness" mentioned several times, is one of the founders of the sect, probably from the 2nd century BC. No positive identification has been made of this character, nor The Wicked Priest. There is also no proven connection between the scrolls and Christianity, and there is no known link with the Gospels. The "pesher" method of interpreting the scriptures is referred to, but is applied only to the Old Testament, and is a way of reading ancient prophecies. The word pesher itself is used whenever the method is applied. It never appears in the Gospels.

The Thiering heresy: The relevant scrolls exactly coincide with the birth of Christianity in the first century AD. The real — but coded — history of the Essenes is to be found in the Gospels. Once applied it leads inevitably to the true history of Jesus, a teacher who was seeking to modernise and spread more widely the teaching of the Essenes. Those who take the time to follow Dr Thiering's code will find that everything falls into place.

Conclusion: Dr Thiering is the victim of her own sensationalism. She requires too many assumptions: that her dating is accurate; that the scrolls contain a hidden code; that their authors had a hand in writing the Gospels; that later Christian literature backs up her thesis; that the pesher code applies to some parts of the Gospels but not to others; and on the simplest level of all, that her account of the crucifixion and the alleged survival of Jesus is history and not melodrama. Until she is challenged on her own ground and in detail, her books will go on selling — to the fury of scholars and the delight of conspiracy theorists.

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هكذا من الأصل

'Engineers must take time to sing, act and debate'

Alec Broers, a pioneer of microchip technology, is a vice-chancellor for the 21st century

Few brains can have drained quite as fast as Alec Broers did in March 1965. He was examined for his Cambridge PhD one morning, and left for America that afternoon, to take up a cracking research job with IBM. As he boarded his flight for New York, he was approached by a woman with a clipboard doing a survey on people who had qualified in Britain and were off to work in the US. "And when did you get your degree?" she asked. "About five hours ago," he replied.

Thirty years on, just as the old Wilsonian white heat of the technological revolution was steaming from Tony Blair's conference speech (a computer for every child and "education, education, education"), Professor Broers, pioneer of microchip technology, was making his inaugural speech as Cambridge's new Vice-Chancellor, and reminding us of the need for (a) investment in research and (b) alluring salaries to attract brilliant teachers. Professor Broers himself took a five-fold drop in salary to bring his brain home and become Master of Churchill.

Professor Broers is not a typical Oxbridge don. He wears sharp suits. He carries everywhere his Hewlett Packard palmtop with its 40MB silicon flashcard ("my brain is stored in it"). He is so devoted to e-mail, he has two addresses: "I can receive my e-mail on the Greek islands, or in the Australian outback, and have done so."

We sit in the room in Caius where Hugh Montefiore interviewed him for a choral scholarship in 1959. Not many engineers come up as choral scholars; it is even more rare to find a vice-chancellor addicted to ice-skating. Every winter finds Professor Broers on the frozen fens, free-skating to the accompaniment of Strauss waltzes, Sousa marches or the Beatles on his Walkman earphones. Alas, the nearest ice-rink to Cambridge is in Peterborough. "A Canadian has given us not quite enough money to build an ice rink in Cambridge," he says, "and I am alone in thinking it would be a good idea."

Professor Broers (Dutch antecedents, English parents, Australian accent) was born in Calcutta. In 1948, the family sailed for Sydney on the same ship as Don Bradman & Co. fresh from their Ashes victory. He boarded at Geelong Grammar with its tough cold-shower regime and excellent choir. At Melbourne University he sang in the cathedral five evenings a week and twice on Sundays. Afternoons were for ice-skating and he skied whenever possible. In Australia? "Oh yes," he said. "We boast that in winter Australia has the same area of snow-covered slopes as Switzerland."

But his passion was electronics. He built bespoke hi-fi systems for sheep farmers, using all-British components (Wharfedale speakers, Mullard valves, Parnridge transformers) since Britain at that time led the world in electronics. The valve-based amplifier he made 40 years ago is still in perfect working order today.

His enterprising mother investigated Cambridge entrance, and her boy arrived, with a burning desire to build radio telescopes with Sir Martin Ryle. But Ryle said they'd built all the telescopes they needed. Why not do engineering? So he worked instead on the scanning electron microscope pioneered by Sir Charles Oatley — and made a breakthrough.

Scientists, Professor Broers believes, should be able to articulate the excitement of their subject. "Newspapers always want to know about eureka moments," he said.



All wired up: Professor Alec Broers, the new Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge

giving me a brisk tutorial on semiconductors which ended with the eureka moment when he wrote on a thin layer of gold, etched it with ions and achieved the first nano-structure: "We proved it was possible to miniaturise — which led to circuits, chips, and the whole revolution."

He was ready to offer his skills to industry, but Britain was already out of the micro-electronics race, lagging way behind because we lacked leaders in science and technology prepared to propel things forward by reckless investment.

Professor Broers is fond of analogies: his favourite is the one about the motor industry. "If cars had made the same progress as electronics have in the past ten years, then you would be able to drive from Cambridge to London in half a second, and instead of a gallon of petrol you'd need a teaspoon. And you wouldn't bother putting 20p in a parking meter because you could buy a new car for less than that."

"There has been no other revolution like it in the history of mankind. The trillion-dollar question is, will it go on beyond 2005? What are the limits of semiconductors? The reduction in cost is largely due to reduction in size: a two-centimetre silicon chip can store a gigabit, a thousand million bits of information. When I was an undergraduate, the circuit that stored one bit of information cost £5. Now we can make 50,000 of them for a penny."

get a new laboratory built. As a sportive, well-rounded chap himself who could sing a Brahms or Faure requiem, Professor Broers insists scientists have to be more gregarious and outgoing (like him). They need "emotional intelligence" as Magnus Linklater said in *The Times* yesterday. Professor Broers says: "It's no good producing specialists who can't box their way out of

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



a political paper bag." Engineers must take time to act, sing and debate at the Union: it's the only way, in Professor Broers' view, they will ever compete with arts graduates who swamp the media. (He'd forgotten that John Birt read engineering at Oxford.)

You could describe his new job as chief executive of Cambridge Inc., facing the familiar challenges of Funds vs Cuts. He has to encourage industries like Glaxo Wellcome to endow chairs and research fellowships (and think carefully about tobacco barons' money). He must attract research students with the facilities they expect. He hopes Sir Ron Dearing will realise that first-class minds need payments to match. He has to

emulate American-style fund-raising: he is just back from the US (where he has a house in Rhode Island) wooing Cambridge's American alumni — who have money to give, but have never been asked. "One American told me he realised how much he owed to his Cambridge education, and decided to send his old college a grateful cheque. Back came a letter, returning his cheque: 'We have looked into your accounts, and we are assured there is no money owing to us.' But we're getting better at it."

At 58 he still sings: he sang in an impromptu Messiah last year. In his twin-masted sailing boat he and his wife, Mary (who he met on a Chelsea houseboat) voyage adventurously beyond the Arctic circle, or to Albania. Professor Broers starts work at 6.30am and "almost never" watches television: "Will Wyatt, an old Cantabrigian, invited me to a Prom this year. One of the other guests was a star from *EastEnders* — and I had no idea who she was."

The flaw in our wired-up high-tech future is, of course, human fallibility, and microchip-dependency. On my train home my mobile rang: I had left my tape-recorder behind. And the professor had left his glasses — without which he could not read his palmtop diary. What it said was: "Move house" as he was leaving the Churchill Master's Lodge that day for the vice-chancellor's house. Once there, he switched on his computer and met a gigaproblem: "It emitted strange noises and said 'Freeze everything. Stop breathing. Remove disk. Call fire brigade.' He laughed. 'I think we may have a virus.'"

At Blackpool, it's a journey to the feet of the matter, says Giles Coren

New Labour, new shoes



Labour leader Tony Blair's shoes. "He sets great store by them" says his constituency secretary

In Blackpool this week the debate has been all about the big S word. Shoes. Never, in the history of British politics, have so many new pairs been seen in one place at one time. While old lechers pointed to the proliferation of beautiful girls at the *New Statesman* party as indicative of Labour's impending electoral success ("they've overtaken the *Spectator* parties for totty," mused one conference diehard) the more closed-up observers knew it was all in the shoes. The Left was shod for power.

Tony has bought two new pairs for conference, one black and one brown," confessed Mr Blair's constituency secretary, Rita Taylor. "He sets great store by shoes. If they are clean and in good condition, you can be sure that the owner is very well organised, just like Tony. I do a lot of interviewing for him and we know how much you can tell about a person from their shoes."

Hearing this in the bar of the Imperial Hotel — where Blair and his closest acolytes have spent the week — I cast my mind back to the intersection between the dining car and the first class carriages on the London to Blackpool train, where Tony Benn had been forced to skulk for a surreptitious pipe. His brown Doctor Marten shoes, I had noted then, were immaculately kept, bespeaking years of loving shoe-tree use and diligent polishing — they had an integrity and shine that no new pair of shoes could hope to mimic. What, then, was all this fuss about Labour's new shoes?

It was not until I arrived in "the capital of proletarian England" that I uncovered the true shoe story.

TWO YOUNG researchers were discussing, during their leader's speech, the relative merits of Pled a Terre Original black suede flaties, as against mock croc loafers from Kurt Geiger. Both had made their purchases that very morning, both had forked out £79. Even as Mr Blair was laying down his thousand-year plan, Emily was saying how well the flaties would last. Jermina pointed out that mock croc, for both men and women, was the young shoe of the conference. "Style or practicality," she mused, "that is the question."

It really does seem to be a case of new Labour, new shoes. At a party in her room

at the Imperial Hotel, the Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mo Mowlam, was entertaining a number of recently and beautifully shod young Labour activists. But had she, herself, splashed out? "God, no. I've had these about two years. In fact, I have just had them resoled." To prove the point, she whipped them off and held them up for inspection. They had, indeed, recently been given a new sole. "Just like us," howled a small, spotty researcher. To which many responded with laughter, others with yawns.

"They're imitation Bruno Magli," she divulged, pulling on a cigarette I had been forced to trade for her pedal disclosures. "I bought them for twenty quid in M&S."

A pattern was beginning to emerge. Looking for a young tyro to reaffirm it, I lit upon Derek Draper, formerly Peter Mandelson's aide-de-camp, and equally talented in the business of making enemies and appearing insufferably smug. He is now director of the glossy new Labour brochure, *Progress*. His loafers were new.

"Patrick Cox, £120," he grinned. And then I told him I was an undercover shoe-connoisseur from *The Times*. "Of course, I paid only £70 for them," he gushed hastily. "In the sales. You must put that in: £70 in the sales." From the lofty future I turned to the irresistible megalith of Mar-

garet Beckett. No nonsense, no new shoes. She had just made a keynote speech, and was making her way to the bar of the Imperial. But — could this be true? — she had changed her shoes since making her speech. Gone were the very high heels from which she had roused the faithful that afternoon. And in their place was a lower-heeled pair, with curly metal bits on. New shoes, perchance, Mrs Beckett?

Tony has bought two new pairs — one black and one brown

"Funnily enough, no. I bought these about 18 months ago at conference. But I do almost always buy new shoes at conference."

Oh, really? Sounds more like she is trying to get in on the "new Labour, new shoes" ticket. Where exactly does she get them? "From Vernon Humpage, here in Blackpool. The brand is Renata, they're very nice. Whenever there is a TUC or Labour conference up here, I buy a pair."

Vernon Humpage? This did

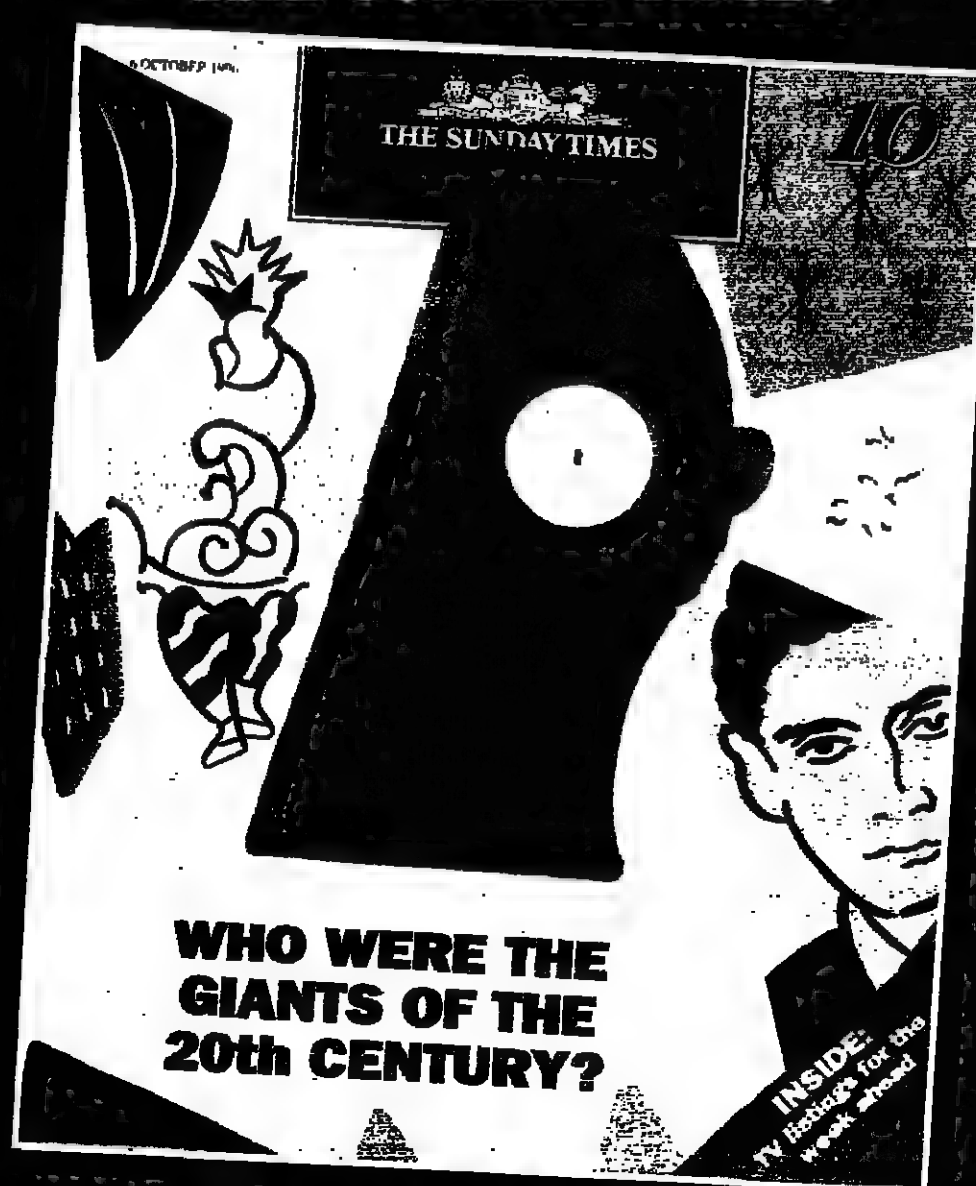
not sound true. This sounded like she had cottoned on to the importance of shoes this year, and was hastily backtracking on a now outdated commitment to old shoes.

But next morning, there I was — quite by chance — standing outside Vernon Humpage on the high street. "Oh yes, Mrs Beckett comes in quite often," confirmed a sales assistant. "She buys nice fashion shoes, often three or four pairs at a time. So does that nice Harriet Harman."

Two wildly diverging political minds, united by a single vision when it comes to Humpage? It took Alec Scott, the shoe king behind Vernon Humpage, to get to the feet of the matter. "The South is a desert for good shoes. Our shoes would be three times the price down south. That's why they all buy shoes when they come to Blackpool, Barbara Castle was a customer for years. Aye, the South is a shoe-morgue. We feel very sorry for you people up here."

And so they march on, shod for the future in Blackpool. As the election draws nearer and the party searches for a unifying vision, it is not Peter Mandelson, nor John Prescott, nor even Tony Blair that will be remembered as the man who came to Blackpool and prepared Labour for power. It will all be about how Patrick Cox travelled north, and found a way to work with Vernon Humpage.

THE SUNDAY TIMES



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Devolution: a Whitehall dialogue

Sue Cameron listens in on the mandarins gossiping

We have received a tape of the following confidential discussion between two senior civil servants connected with the Department of Administrative Affairs, once headed by Sir Humphrey Appleby. Sir Richard Power now holds a top job at the Department. Sir Nicholas Machie has retired.

Sir Nicholas Machie: "Did you hear George Robertson at the Labour conference yesterday talking about breaking the armlock of central government? Frankly I was appalled to hear a Shadow Scottish Secretary talking that way. Their devolution plans are just implausible. Why can't Whitehall get a grip on politicians these days?"

Sir Richard Power: "Because they're the opposition, Niccolo. The Civil Service is only meant to control the Government."

Sir Nicholas: "I went through devolution in the 1970s. I've seen it all before. Right down to politicians' attempts at rigging a referendum. Last time one of the devolution Bills took 23 days in the Commons and 23 days in the Lords. If that happens again, public government will disappear."

Sir Richard: "You thought a Paving Bill might help?"

Sir Nicholas: "You mean you'd advise Blair to legislate for a commission to consider detailed options for implementing devolution. He'd claim it fulfilled his election pledges and the whole thing could go on the back burner."

Sir Richard: "Exactly."

Sir Nicholas: "Shrewd, but it might not solve the problem. The real horror last time was the internecine warfare in Whitehall, with the Welsh and the Scots pressing for ever more to be devolved and us struggling to stop them. It'll be the same this time."

Sir Richard: "But the Scottish Office already runs education, housing, local government... What more will they want?"

Sir Nicholas: "More control over industry for a start. You don't imagine the Scots would have closed all those coal mines or Ravenscroft steel if it had been up to them, do you? And they won't want London running the North Sea oil."

Sir Richard: "We might be able to live with that. If you extend the land frontier into the North Sea, England gets to keep a very substantial share of the oil. The Forties field and everything south of it. Quite a benefit, I'd say."

Sir Nicholas: "Benefits are another thing. The Scots will want to take over their own social security."

Sir Richard: "Come off it, Niccolo. Nobody in his right mind would want to run social security. All those rules and regulations, those armies of clerks paying out billions of pounds. Perfect nightmare. Besides, the Scots get more per person out of the Exchequer than the English and they have a disproportionately high number of poor. So if they wanted their benefits to keep pace with the rest of us, either they would have to raise the extra cash themselves or do a trade-off."

Sir Nicholas: "A trade-off always boils down to which minister has most clout. And there's one factor that will make it worse than last time: Europe. The Scots will want their own representation on every Council of Ministers."

Sir Richard: "Why? We may represent their interests on most things in Europe, but they're allowed to represent the whole of the UK on forestry."

Sir Nicholas: "They'll want a separate Scottish minister on every European council. And the chances of a Scottish minister agreeing a joint UK line on something like fisheries will be zero."

Sir Richard: "Good God! But that's preposterous!"

Sir Nicholas: "No more preposterous than Luxembourg. Luxembourg's pretty preposterous, I know, but there's nothing the Euros like better than import nations with a world-scale capacity for aggression. As far as Brussels is concerned, Scotland will be a new weapon in its negotiating armoury. And the Scottish Office will go from strength to strength. More ministers... more civil servants."

Sir Richard: "More civil servants?"

Sir Nicholas: "Of course. Hundreds."

Sir Richard: "Really? Perhaps this has more possibilities than we thought. Tell me, what are we in business for in Whitehall?"

Sir Nicholas: "We're in business to be in business."

Sir Richard: "Exactly. And this could be very good business. It's not only the Scottish Office that will have to expand. Whitehall will need liaison committees to decide who runs what. Then we'll want permanent coordinating committees to draw together Scottish and English policies... plus an extra division of press officers to convince the Scots there's been a constitutional revolution."

Sir Nicholas: "And another division to persuade the English there's been no change."

Sir Richard: "Exactly. It could be just the thing to smooth the Whitehall blockage."

Sir Nicholas: "What bulge?"

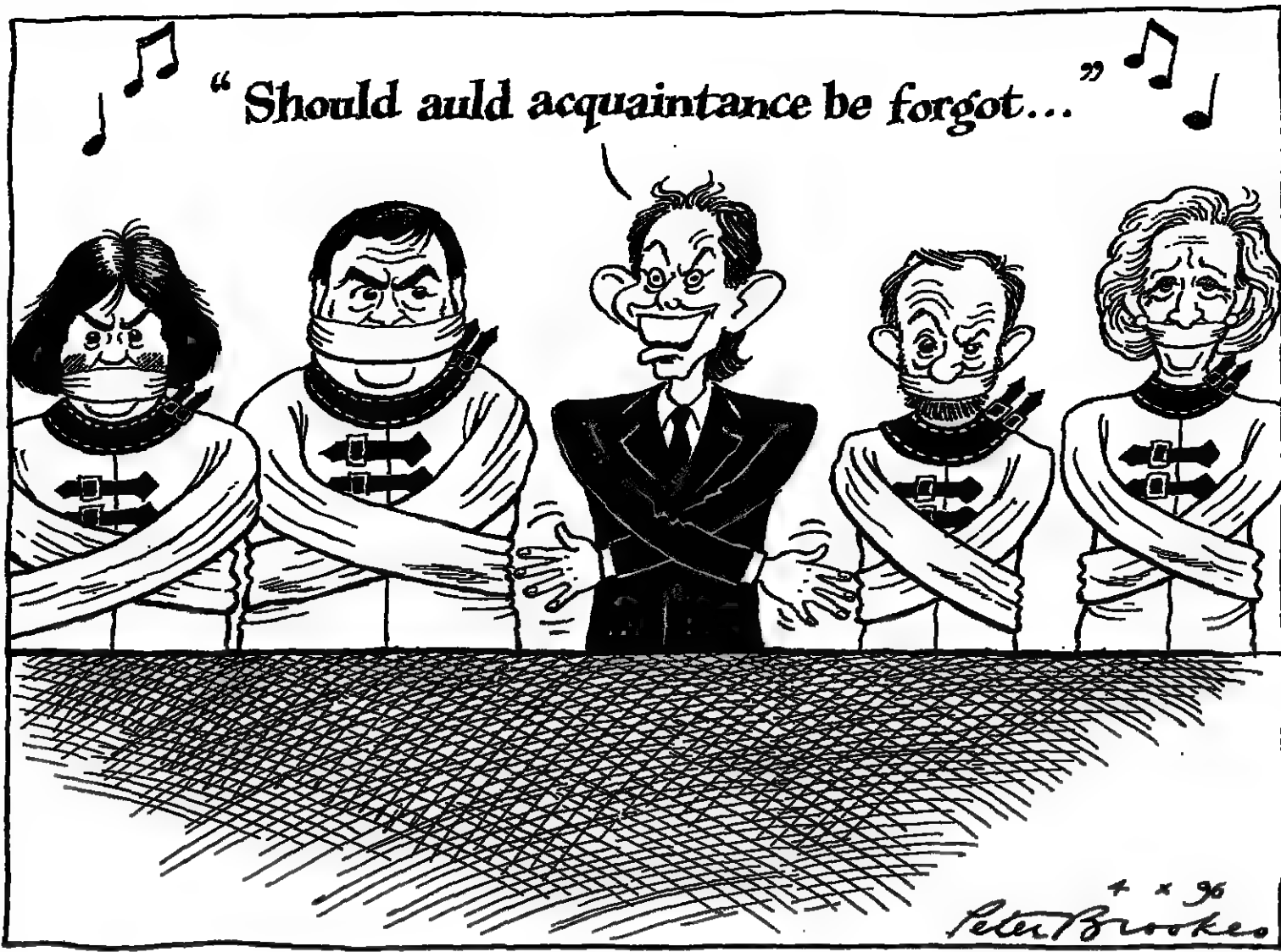
Sir Richard: "The Whitehall promotion blockage. Bright people aged 45 or under who can't climb further up the ladder because my generation is blocking the way. Devolution could open up new opportunities for them. The Government's regional offices would have to expand to stop the English being jealous of the Scots. And of course the Cabinet Office will have to be strengthened."

Sir Nicholas: "There might even be a real job for a Deputy Prime Minister to do."

Sir Richard: "John Prescott, Labour's Deputy Leader? Perfect. All governments need a bit of rough — and he comes from the North East. If there's one thing they hate up there it's the thought that their taxes are subsidising Glasgow."

Sir Nicholas: "Talking of jobs, any news on the succession?"

Sir Richard: "Well, as you know, Sir Robin Butler is meant to retire as Cabinet Secretary at the end of next year. I've told that certain Labour people are saying that if they win the election, Robin might... Hold on! What's that noise in the outer office? I'll just make sure the door's properly shut."



Travels in golden realms

Gold is the metal that all mankind has worshipped, but its appeal remains as mysterious as ever

Gold. Just say the word. Say "gold" and nothing else. Say it again: gold. Try it against steel, against iron, steel, uranium, platinum, and anything that could be metal. Gold.

Gold. Look at the index of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations: there are 61 references to gold, together with 32 for golden, but there are only 24 references to silver. Say gold.

I thought that the world's resources of gold had been exhausted, but immediately another giant poled its head out of the gleam. This goldmine is going to be a giant: it is to be found on Lihir Island in Papua New Guinea, and it will have to wait until the huge volcano that has just erupted here has settled down. (Though there is no reason to believe that even greater ones may not burst out at any time.)

Lihir is a very long way away, and the amenities are unlikely to be those of Knightsbridge, but one intrepid explorer, Kenneth Gooding, has gone there and brought back the news that gold, gold, gold is to be found.

And all through the ages, six thousand years of those ages, men have dug for gold, prayed for gold, begged for gold, robbed for gold, died for gold, killed for gold, gone mad for gold, and wasted their lives for gold.

And still they come, while I shudder because the headline of Mr Gooding's article is "Gold lures miners into the shadow of the volcano" and is followed up with "There is so much gold at Lihir, one of the biggest undeveloped deposits in the world, that the miners cannot resist having a go. In spite of the daunting problems presented by the site." (And one of the least daunting problems is the fact that the mining atmosphere will reach a temperature of 140°C, or 284°F.)

Curiously, although gold fascinates almost everyone, the encyclopedia is almost silent on the subject, leaving it to things like gold being a good conductor of heat and electricity. But I found a book with the title *The World of Gold*, by Timothy Green, and it was written for the layman, viz. me. And when the first paragraph of the first page of a book about gold contains a speech by Disraeli saying "more men have been knocked off balance by gold than by love", and the second contains a message to King Ferdinand of Spain in 1511 saying "Get gold — humane if you can, but at all hazards get

golden stock is from Britain, or France, or China.

And I suddenly realised that what I was seeing was nothing but madness. For when any country that needs to sell or buy gold — perhaps there has been a stream of strikes, or clamour for lower prices — it does not sell or buy that country's gold on the open market, or even in the dark of night; no, but far away at the Federal Reserve Bank, some gold blocks are solemnly shifted out of one of the cages and put it in another.

You must believe me, though you won't. For there are sturdy men whose only work — and they do it in shifts all the year round — is to move blocks of gold from one place to another, even though the moving is only going three or four paces. They move around blocks that will never see the sky, or anything else for that matter. Did I add that the movers, on an ordinary day, can hump up to 2,000 blocks?

I come back to *The World of Gold*. In some countries — and Britain is one — it is illegal to hoard gold. But in many countries, whether or not hoarding is legal, there is an enormous traffic in hoarded, stolen, cheated or smuggled gold. And the ingenuity with which the wrongdoers do their wrongs is amazing. One version was to paint gold pellets so that they looked like date-stones. In another case, a great traveller was known for trundling about on his bicycle, until, that is, he was caught filling his bicycle-frame with gold pellets. Then again, the endless folds of Indian saris could cover many a sheet of gold. And the ingenuity of these splendid rogues goes even further: one smuggled the booty into Hong Kong by sticking it on his skin with 2,642 strips of adhesive plaster. Indeed, journalists have carried typewriters with solid gold space-bars. (Some of these rogues must be distinguished from others; these are mostly Indian holy men, who remain beggars, and ask that the gold fillings in their mouths be used to pay for their funerals.)

Gold is the child of Zeus, said Pindar; on the other hand Benvenuto Cellini had a golden salt-cellar so large that he could have had a bath in it. Gold has been the downfall of millions, and the yearning of many millions more. And to think that it is, and always has been, and always will be, absolutely — absolutely and entirely — useless.

who embarked, 30,000 arrived, and only 5,000 even got a chance to dig.

But there were, and are, more subtle ways of coming close to great quantities of gold. Once, in New York, I was allowed to see all — all — of the Federal Reserve Bank's gold, which is considerably more than there is in Fort Knox. I descended into a cave that Aladdin would be proud of, and a huge steel door, 3ft thick, swung silently. Around me was gold, gold, gold.

My chaperone swung a giant pair of scales eight feet high. "Watch," he said, taking from his pocket a crisp one-dollar bill, he threw it on to the gigantic scales. They moved at three hundredths of an ounce. "Watch," said my guide, taking out another dollar bill out of his pocket and showing it to me. "This one's dirty," he said, and threw it on the scales. The scales shifted at four hundredths of an ounce. Those mighty scales had turned by a speck of dirt.

The gold gleamed out at me; the gleam was soft, the place was silent, though silence was not required. At the end of this magical roundabout I had to go through what I suppose is the standard joke; my leader motioned to me to pick up a bar of gold that now lay at my feet. Clearly, it was screwed to the floor, but why? The smiles around me said that I was having a leg pulled; it took two men to heave the bar off the floor, and there was no screwing down. You see, gold is very heavy.

But the Federal Reserve Bank does not just sit around watching the gold tarnish (it doesn't). It moves the gold around. The mighty blocks of gold are stacked, as you would expect, neatly in their wire cages. These cages have numbers on them — not names, so that only in the holy of holies can an outsider tell which

Bernard Levin

down on the plain, the diggers dug; at one time there were some 40,000 diggers at work, and not many got much gold for their sieving. Nor were the diggers all American or British; at one time there were 25,000 French diggers and 20,000 Chinese. But there were tragedies; from the little town of Dawson a great flood of hopefuls began; but of the 100,000

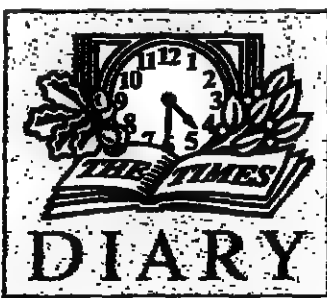
hail Gorbachev, who has stepped up the ladder to be President of the Rio Manzú Institute, hopes to present the award.

Diana will be in a line of medalists which includes such careerist gong-snatchers as Henry Kissinger and George Bush, as well as assorted Scandinavian diplomats and ex-presidents of Italy (it's a long list). According to the institute, Diana earned her place on the roll of honour by "her work for health and humanitarian causes".

The highlight of her 18-hour swing through the beach resort will be her speech on "the challenge of an ageing population".

Andrew Neil, the huggable former Editor of *The Sunday Times*, writes in his forthcoming autobiography about sitting next to the Princess of Wales at a dinner. She had recently acquired an Audi. "The press have been complaining at me for buying a German car," she said. "I think it's very unfair. After all, I married a German."

fixed his party for Wednesday evening, so coinciding with the meeting of Labour's National Executive Committee. Not a single member of the Shadow Cabinet showed up.



Human side

WHILE the shame deepens ever further for the Duchess of York, the Princess of Wales's ascent to divine status continues. Next Saturday, she is off to Rimini in Italy to receive the Pio Manzú Gold Medal for humanitarian services. Mik-



Queen of hearts

Star gazing

AFTER losing its two star performers, Roberto Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu, a husband and wife team who have pulled out at short notice from *La Bohème*, the Royal Opera House is fuming.

But the House can't protest, for fear the starry couple will never agree to appear in future. So the only solace comes with the news that the Met in New York is suffering similarly from the couple's caprice, as is the Paris Opera.

Meanwhile the Royal Opera is still desperately searching for places to perform from next year,

Philip Howard



Did Alexander Pope deserve to win the Nobel Prize?

So the Nobels They Are A-Changin'. But not yet enough for Bob Dylan to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. Wood instead it was awarded yesterday to Wislawa Szymborska. Gordon Ball, the professor of literature and fine arts at the Virginia Military Institute who nominated Dylan for the Nobel, wrote: "Mr Dylan in word and music has created an almost unlimited universe of art which has permeated the globe and in fact changed the history of the world." And our own Professor Christopher Ricks says: "If the question is 'Does anybody use words better than Dylan does?' then the answer, in my opinion, is 'No.'"

"Flowers on the hillside, bloomin' crazy, / Crickets talkin' back and forth in rhyme." Some of Bob Dylan's lyrics are better known around the world than the lines of any living poet. But the same is true of a Coca-Cola slogan. A better reason for the Swedish Academy to have chosen Dylan would have been that the poor old dears, who complain that their octogenarian eyes are strained from so much duty reading, could have judged him with their eyes shut. Dylan knows he is a poet. / I know it. / Hope I don't blow it. And he has one of the attributes: a warm and bleeding heart. Unfortunately he does not have the technique and clear vision that are also required. A poet needs all three plus a unique secret ingredient.

That is why Alexander Pope is the poet for those who do not like poetry, as Trollope is the novelist for those who do not understand novels. Pope was a brilliant technician and versifier. "Pleasures the sex [female], as children Birds, pursue, / Still out of reach, yet never out of view..." The word order in that first line builds a perfect classical climax. The couplet was cribbed from François de Malherbe — clever, glittering, rational, heartless. Pope was the classic sub-editor: "Prune the luxuriant, the uncouth refine / But show no mercy to the empty line." He was easy to hate, but still easier to quote. This is why he scores almost as many citations in the dictionaries of quotations as real poets such as Byron, Tennyson, Shelley and Keats.

Tick-tock, tickety-tock, plinkety-plonk. Mr Pope: all technique but no generosity. All head and cold eye — but no heart, no balls. Consider him with an earlier version of Dylan's crickets talking back and forth in rhyme. One of the scenes in the *Iliad* that makes the hair at the nape of the neck bristle and brings tears to the eyes: the old men of Troy are sunning themselves on the tower by the Scaean gate, chattering like cicadas in rhyme. Helen, the cause of ten years' siege, the deaths of their sons, and the impending destruction of themselves and their city, passes beneath. The old man says: "It was not Nemesis [blame?] shame! a curse! for the Trojan and Greek men-at-arms to suffer so long for a woman like that. She is terribly like the immortal goddesses." Untranslatable. So here goes Pope:

They cried, "No wonder such celestial charms
For nine long years have set the world in arms:
What winning grace! what majestic mien!
She moves a goddess, and she looks a queen!"

Technique — alpha. But where's the tragic pathos that makes the reader weep 25 centuries later? Nil point. In Johnson's anecdote, Pope brown-nosed up to the great classicist Dr Richard Bentley one day at Dr Mead's and asked him: "Dr Bentley, I ordered my bookseller to send you your books: I hope you received them." Bentley, who had purposely avoided saying anything about Homer, pretended not to understand him, and asked, "Books! books! what books?" "My Homer," replied Pope, "which you did me the honour to subscribe for." "Oh," said Bentley, "Ay, now I recollect — your translation: — it is a pretty poem. Mr Pope. But you must not call it Homer."

Dryden was almost as fine a versifier as Pope, but a better poet. Horace was a more skillful technician than either, though in metre not rhyme, but you can read the emotion of a true poet beneath Horace's brilliant lyrics and multi-layered words. Pope might have been a better poet if he had gone out and got stoned with Dylan (everybody mugs). But Dylan would have written less popular lyrics if he had caught Pope's brand of ice-cold precision, malice and rationality.

P.H.S

Own goal

ASTON BLAIR stood down from the podium at the Labour Party conference this week, the Conservative press machine was straining at its leash. They weren't much concerned about the content of the speech, but the Tory chairman Brian Mawhinney immediately denounced the slogan "Labour's coming home" used by Blair as second-hand.

Mawhinney, who is as soft as a box of Kleenex behind his Ulster posturing, was on the verge of tears. He had planned to use the very same slogan at the Tory bash, but Blair, the neo-Conservative, had beaten him to it.

A meeting of top press advisers was called in the search for an alternative slogan. Blair was denounced as a plagiarist. Copies of a recent issue of *Conservative Messenger* were bandied about with a report on voters who had left the Labour and Liberal parties under the headline "Coming Home". Further proof, said Mawhinney, that Blair was copying Conservative ideas.

Mawhinney's enthusiasm for the Euro 96 slogan "Football's Coming Home" may well explain the antipathy to it expressed by

Labour MPs. Tony Banks, MP for Newham North West, said that when Blair used the phrase few understood what he was talking about. "And those who did immediately realised that we actually lost in the semi-final which is hardly a harbinger of success."

Inspired no doubt by the visit of their Deputy Prime Minister to the Labour conference in Blackpool, the Italian press corps set off for lunch the other day in need of a taste of home. Sadly, Blackpool was found wanting. The immaculately pressed hacks ended up fortitously picking at their spag in a Pizzaland.

Beeb boob

OF ALL the big parties at Labour's Blackpool conference, none was feebler than that hosted by John Birt, Director-General of the BBC. Birt had turned up on Tuesday evening, hoping for some high-powered mixing with Labour's top brass.

Unfortunately, no one in his gargantuan public relations department had spotted that they had

ded. Please bear in future. Pam perfor- Investments O- gistered in England 16, London EC2N vestment Authority.



BARREN LANDSCAPES

The 1,000 billion mark question about German unification

Six years ago in Dresden, Helmut Kohl made his ebullient promise that by 1995 there would be "blooming landscapes" in East Germany. West Germans too were told that unification would be almost painless. This year, the Chancellor prudently spent Unification Day in Dublin. His lacklustre pre-recorded television appeal for harder work coincided with a report by the economics ministry which for most Germans will have had greater resonance.

It reveals that unification has already cost the country DM 1,000 billion (£400 billion) in net transfers to the east — a staggering sum that has neither created the promised garden of prosperity in the east, nor achieved the political objective of giving all Germans the sense that they inhabit a truly united state. Instead, a wall of mutual resentment has replaced the old Berlin Wall.

Where has all the money gone? And why has it achieved so little, particularly by comparison with the economic transformation of relatively cash-starved Poland, the Czech Republic and even waywardly governed Slovakia — all of which are now speeding ahead with growth of between 4 and 7 per cent? The answer is that Germany is paying in stagnation and unemployment for two key decisions taken in 1990, both of which exported to the east labour costs and inflexibilities and social welfare burdens that were already sapping the competitive strengths of the rich west German economy.

The first was to extend the west's lavish social welfare, pension and healthcare systems to the eastern Länder. Even before unification, west Germans financed these expenditures only by some of Europe's highest personal taxes and excessive burdens on employers' payrolls. Since 1990, this social spending has spiralled out of control — without creating a social consensus. On the contrary, 85 per cent of easterners think they are worse off than in 1990; and in the west, voters who bitterly resent the "Solidarity" tax grumble that subsidies feed the east's dependency culture.

The second, for which German unions bear a heavy responsibility, was to raise east German wages to within 20 per cent of western equivalents. Since productivity in the east nowhere near matched western levels, the result was to price east Germans out of jobs even faster than unemployment rose in the west of the country.

Despite the highest subsidies to industry anywhere in Europe, 15 per cent of easterners are unemployed and the OECD expects employment in both east and west to fall a further 1 per cent this year. With average German labour costs now DM44 an hour, compared with DM33.36 in the Czech Republic where skills are at least comparable to those of east Germany, it is not surprising that German companies are shifting production and investment to Central Europe.

Unification will continue to cost 3 to 4 per cent of GDP, but the Kohl Government is finally cutting public spending and easing the burden on employers of Germany's "social wage". The unions, backed by the Opposition which describes the package as "a declaration of war on social justice", will fight it all the way. Herr Kohl has made things unnecessarily difficult for himself by citing the need to meet the Maastricht debt and deficit criteria in order to meet Germany's historic date with monetary union. EMU is unpopular with a majority of Germans — above all in the east, where people feel that the mark is the most tangible asset they have gained out of unification.

Chancellor Kohl would have been wiser to sell these spending cuts for what they are, a start at deep structural reforms of the economy without which Germany will continue its slide down the league-table of international competitiveness. The unification of Germany has proved harder and more expensive than most voters anticipated. If they are now asked to give up some of the prized luxuries of their postwar social consensus in the name of European unity, Herr Kohl may yet find that he has demanded a unification too far.

LABOUR'S TEST

Straw's war on drugs does not go quite far enough

There can be few more potent causes of crime than drugs. Drug addicts deal or steal to feed their habit, creating an ever-growing number of dependants and victims whose lives are blighted. Drugs encourage violence, whether from desperate addicts or organised criminals anxious to extend their control over a lucrative trade. Outrage at the extent of the problem is easy but practical solutions have proved more elusive. Jack Straw's proposals to test and treat criminals likely to be drug abusers have merit. Rescuing criminals from addiction could save future victims distress and the justice system money. But a successful strategy to tackle drug-related crime will require resolute action against the sources of supply as well as the scale of demand.

The number of drug addicts notified to the Home Office rose between 1990 and 1995 from 17,755 to 37,614. The real figure is likely to be much greater. A weight of evidence, from police-station anecdote to statistical study, demonstrates that there is a link between addiction and crime. Addiction is expensive. A Home Office investigation indicated that heroin users, many on benefit, typically spend £10,000 a year on their habit.

The National Treatment Outcome Research Study, funded by the Department of Health, surveyed 1,100 people undergoing treatment for drug abuse between March and July 1995. Six hundred and sixty four of them had committed 70,000 individual crimes in the three months before entering treatment. The cost of dealing with these offences was put at £4 million.

The prospect of saving the taxpayer millions and the courts strain would, alone, justify investing to end addiction. But, careful as governments must be with public money, their first duty is to maintain order. A programme that could reduce drug crime would, like investment in prisons and the police, deserve support in its own right.

Under Labour's proposals, drawn from American models, criminals guilty of burglary, theft, and drugs possession or dealing would be tested and then, if required, undergo a rigorous and lengthy treatment programme. There is evidence that treatment, like prison, works. One of the American examples Labour has learnt from, the Miami Drug Court, succeeded in one year in reducing the recidivism rate of those it had dealt with from an average of 60 per cent to just 11 per cent.

The courts already have the power to insist on a course of treatment for addicts as part of their sentence. But the current system has flaws: many offenders hide their addiction and others lie during treatment. Testing, before and during any programme, could make treatment more effective and addicts more honest. There is little to be lost from testing such a scheme in a single area and allowing the police and probation service to learn from it. As Labour has belatedly come to accept in schools, tests are the best guarantee that an education programme has worked. It is to the party's credit that it is now applying similar rigour to dealing with crime.

There is one area, however, where Labour is found wanting. The party remains opposed to Michael Howard's proposals to introduce minimum sentences for professional drug dealers. Tackling drug crime requires measures to deter suppliers as well as reduce demand. Labour have drawn attention to the scale of the problem; they should support the necessary solutions.

VISIT TO ANGOLA

A rich country with a poor future

Angola is the second largest oil producing nation in Africa. Yet the delegation of southern African leaders visiting Luanda this week could be forgiven for forgetting that fact. Broken sewers overflow down once elegant colonial streets, power and water supplies are erratic and the mutilated victims of war beg money menacingly from passing cars. The nation is close to social and political collapse.

For two decades Angola was in the thrall of a barbarous civil war which, erupting in 1975 on the eve of its independence from Portugal, left a nation exhausted, its cities in rubble and more than half a million of its citizens dead. With brute determination and the backing of the US and South Africa, Jonas Savimbi, the opposition Unita leader, led his rebel army against the Cuban supported socialist Government of José Eduardo dos Santos in what was to become the longest-running civil war in Africa.

The ceasefire brokered by the UN in Lusaka in 1994 offered a disintegrating nation a slender thread of hope. A 7,000-strong peacekeeping force — including more than 500 British soldiers — was deployed along the front lines, their chief task to oversee the quartering of Unita and government troops in bush camps, in a move to create a single united national army.

But if the intent was there, the momentum

proved lacking. UN troops found themselves struggling in a land where most roads are mined and most bridges collapsed. Unita withheld both guerrilla fighters and heavy weapons from the camps. Long-standing hostilities have proved almost impossible to overcome.

The visit to Luanda this week of the 12 Southern African Development Community leaders, including Nelson Mandela and Robert Mugabe, might have revived the initiative. But the failure of Mr Savimbi to arrive has dashed these hopes. If once he shunned talks in Luanda for security reasons, he is now doing so for his own political ends.

Mr Savimbi's Unita forces still control substantial areas of the Lundas, the Eastern provinces of Angola. Commanding an estimated \$500 million a year from their diamond fields, he grows rich while he keeps his country in limbo. In his bid for power, he can afford to bide his time, waiting for his country to implode economically or perhaps for the health of Mr dos Santos, already failing, to deteriorate further.

Mr Savimbi has squandered whatever sympathy the West once harboured for him. Angola's only chance of recovery is that all the warring factions should honour their agreements. Meanwhile the prospects for this war-torn country look bleak.

Meeting the costs of Nato expansion

From Dr Geoffrey Lee Williams

Sir, Your leading article ("Nato exercise", September 30) rightly asserts that the absorption of new members will cost money at a time when defence budgets are falling. There may indeed be compelling reasons against Nato's expansion eastward in present circumstances but cost is not a primary one.

The costs of including the Visegrad four (the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary) have been assessed by the Rand Corporation and the figures do not seem beyond the capacity of the alliance to meet, given the political will to do so.

The cost to these countries of a form of self-defence would be about \$17 billion under a diluted interpretation of the article 5 guarantee over ten to 15 years. "Joint Protection", involving immediate military assistance under an article 5 obligation would cost Nato \$42 billion over the same period. However, a "Forward Presence" involving the actual permanent deployment of Allied Forces would cost \$82 billion.

Today Nato spends \$450 billion a year on defence. The costs of expansion are therefore not excessive.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY LEE WILLIAMS,
University of Cambridge,
Centre of International Studies,
History Faculty Building,
West Road, Cambridge,
September 30.

From Major-General A. C. P. Stone

Sir, Today you published the Labour Party Conference Agenda and a leading article on Nato. One might be forgiven for being lulled into a false sense of security by the omission of defence as an item in the former, though the succeeding home and overseas news (much of it as depressing as ever) in the Nato leader soon restored reality.

Today the British Army is below 100,000 in strength for the first time in living memory and recruiting is at an all-time low; commitments are seriously high with the major portion of that strength in training for deployment, actually deployed or re-training following deployment; the world is at its most unstable in recent history; the United Nations is increasingly becoming a misnomer and Nato, as you rightly observe, "has failed to convince Russia [that its mission of keeping the Soviet Union out of Europe] has fallen into disuse".

So how can defence be omitted from a conference agenda? Is not the security of the home country the first responsibility of every government, expectant as well as extant?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY STONE,
Army and Navy Club,
Pall Mall, SW1,
September 30.

Ashdown's patriotism

From Mr V. N. Bingham

Sir, My own National Service (1951-52) was not as long as that of Sir James Spicer (letters, September 27 and October 1) or of Paddy Ashdown. But I do claim to know rather more than Sir James does of the development of Liberal, and now Liberal Democrat, policy on nuclear deterrence.

It was in 1981, before he became an MP, that Paddy Ashdown was persuaded — as much by the technical arguments of, among others, Lord Carver, as by CND members like me — to support the single issue of opposing cruise-missile deployment in the UK.

After long heart-searching he accepted the consensus of the Liberal-SDP Alliance parliamentary parties and voted (unsuccessfully) at the Liberal Assembly of 1986 to accept a continuing Anglo-French nuclear force while multilateral negotiations for nuclear disarmament got under way. That was his position two years before his successful bid for the leadership of the Liberal Democrats.

His patriotism in the traditional sense of courageous leadership under fire as a soldier of this country has never been questioned. His definition of patriotism at our conference last week was one of pride in our country — but not only for past military endeavours. It is for the fact that we are again becoming a focal point for Europe and the rest of the world, the excellence of our education, our spirit of co-operative enterprise, our care of the disadvantaged and the asylum-seeker, and our protection of the environment.

Paddy Ashdown's place as a leader and major politician is now secure, and not only in his own party.

Yours faithfully,
V. N. BINGHAM
(President, Liberal Party 1981-82;
Vice-President, CND, 1980-06),
34 Ashdown Avenue,
West Didsbury, Manchester,
October 1.

Chocolate remedy

From Mrs Sarah Somers

Sir, Please could Mr Christopher Ellis (letter, September 27) tell me what illness I have to have in order to eat chocolate to return to full health?

Yours faithfully,
SARAH SOMERS,
Fridays, Poling,
Nr Arundel, West Sussex,
September 27.

Unmet conditions of Turner bequest

From Mr Leolin Price, QC

Sir, Dr Selby Whittingham's letter about the reuniting of the Turner bequest (October 1) advocates a simple principle: which everyone can easily understand. As the QC whose written opinion he quotes, may I amplify.

By his will Turner gave his pictures and drawings to the nation subject to their being housed together for display in a single gallery; and, if this condition was not complied with at the end of the ten years, the gift failed. The gift failed. But the collection was retained.

The merits of the condition may be debated. There is no room for debate about the morality of disregarding the condition and, nevertheless, retaining the collection: this has at all times been an indefensible position knowingly adopted and continued by all concerned with the deployment of the magnificent, and hugely valuable, collection.

Researches have not disclosed evidence that those entitled to the collection as a result of the failure to comply with the condition have surrendered or waived their rights; and, in spite of the passage of time, their successors now have an arguable claim to ownership of the collection.

Even, however, if that arguable claim could be defeated, there is no moral justification for keeping the collection as a national asset without complying with the condition. Let the condition be complied with now.

As a collection displayed in a single gallery the pictures and drawings can be seen, enjoyed and studied as Turner intended. From the single gallery, pictures and drawings can be lent from time to time for display elsewhere.

As soon as that has been arranged this rich treasurehouse of art can be enjoyed by the nation without the discomfort of knowing that the donor has been cheated and his bounty abused.

Yours truly,
LEOLIN PRICE,
10 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2,
October 1.

From Mr John Pittuck

Sir, I am not entirely unsympathetic nor insensitive to Dr Whittingham's proposition; but it seems more fitting to me that a number of Turner's key works remain in the National Gallery, regardless of other unrelated exchanges due to take place between it and the Tate.

As one of our few major painters of international stature (indeed, the first), Turner should retain his rightful place alongside the world's greatest artists, as a tribute and further distinction paid to him by an appreciative nation.

One hopes that Turner would not have minded this kind of interference with the tenor of his bequest. At the time he made it he was not to know, or could not be sure, of the universal impact and influence his painting was to have throughout Europe.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN PITTUCK,
Hillside Cottage, 62 Dunmow Road,
Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire,
October 1.

Hong Kong's future

From Sir Kenneth Warren

Sir, One wonders why Sir Percy Cradock is so eager now, by ranting at Her Majesty's Governor in Hong Kong (report, October 1), to deny the advice he gave Mrs Thatcher which caused her to state that the 1984 Agreement between the United Kingdom and the People's Republic of China would give the people of Hong Kong "a steady expansion of democracy".

Sir Percy has been quoted as saying that when dealing with China "the beginning of wisdom is the confession of ignorance". Could it be that he has found out, at last, that the PRC negotiators in 1984 were not expecting our opening position to be abdication?

Some time after the deal had been concluded I was dismayed to be told in the PRC by a senior Chinese politician involved in their own preparations, that their expectations of Mrs Thatcher, based on their observations of her flair for confrontation, was that she would start off demanding an extension of the treaty.

Their prime position, I was told, was to be the preservation of the trading strength of Hong Kong. They were prepared to talk until a formula, between their own political rhetoric demanding our departure and their recognition of the value of a capitalist bastion in the development of southern China, was achieved. They had not prepared themselves for our gift of the colony.

My confidant wryly commented that he wondered who had advised her that "there is no alternative". His parting comment was: "Does anybody in London read what your Secret Service reports?"

Within a year the people of Hong Kong will have found out whether Sir Percy Cradock's wisdom outweighed his ignorance.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH WARREN,
Woodfield House, Goudhurst, Kent,
October 1.

Political lobbyists

From the Secretary of the Association of Professional Political Consultants

Sir, The allegations that have been made concerning the Neil Hamilton/Ian Greer case (leading article, October 2; letter, October 3) have led to suggestions that political lobbyists are involved in a widespread practice of paying MPs.

Even if the facts of the Hamilton/Greer case were true, they relate to one lobbying firm in respect of activities some years past. We have no evidence that any other reputable professional firm has been involved in such activities.

Furthermore, our body was established in 1994 at the instigation of the

House of Commons to regulate lobbyists and its membership now accounts for the great majority of the profession's turnover. One of its central founding principles was that payments by those who work with political institutions to those who work within them may create the impression of a conflict of interest and should be banned.

No regulated lobbyist, including Ian Greer Associates, either can or does now make payments to MPs and most have never done so.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES MILLER, Secretary,
Association of Professional Political Consultants,
50 Rochester Row, SW1,
October 2.

Childbirth and the law

From Ms Josephine Hayes and Ms Daphne Loeb

Sir, We were appalled to learn from your recent reports that, unknown to the public, our High Courts have been ordering women to undergo Caesarian sections against their wishes and by force if they will not submit (September 16, 23; see also letters, September 25, October 1).

Until now we felt we would be safe to go into hospital to give birth, believing that no treatment could be given without our consent. Now we discover that some High Court judges are willing to breach this principle, in secret, where the woman disagrees with the doctor's advice.

Is it a coincidence that the judges of our High Court, and of the appeal courts to whom they must answer, are nearly all men, while all those on the receiving end of these orders are women? We think not.

What collective experience of giving birth have the higher judiciary? What collective understanding have they of the violation involved in cutting open a healthy adult's womb against her will? Half the population is virtually unrepresented on the Bench.

Recent reforms to judicial appointment procedures in the lower courts have already brought more women judges into those courts. At the Bar Conference on September 28, the Shadow Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, made it clear that he agreed with the Bar Council and the Association of Women Barristers that these new procedures should apply to High Court appointments. The sooner the better.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. HAYES,
DAPHNE LOEB,
3 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

Band of hope

From Mr Alan Edwards

Sir, What a lot of nonsense this talk of a 10p tax band is (report, October 1). The introduction of the 20p band must have led to extra work for tax officers, banks and building societies, all unproductive. An increase in the personal allowances would have helped the lower paid, indeed everyone, more efficiently.

If a low starting rate makes such good headlines, why does not one of the parties go all the way and propose a one penny band — or would that give the game away?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN EDWARDS,
4 West Hill Road, Foxton, Cambridge,
October 1.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

The magnificent sporting seven

From Canon Dr Michael Bourdeaux

Sir, In your leading article today on Frankie Dettori's historic feat at Ascot you identify six other sporting occasions — Obolensky's try against New Zealand in 1936, Roger Bannister's breaking of the four-minute mile in 1954, England's World Cup win in 1966, Botham's Test (1981), Borg versus McEnroe (1981) and Lara's record first-class score (1994) — of which "gentlemen in England now abed think themselves accursed they were not there".

My own two out of seven is not an impressive score, but I wonder how many of your readers can do better? I was at Wembley for that World Cup Final and on the Centre Court for Borg v McEnroe (and a linesman for their second final, almost as good, the next year). And I was only a few hundred yards from Bannister at Illey Road but, alas, separated by library walls while on my last lap before finals.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BOURDEAUX,
101 Church Way, Illey, Oxford,
September 30.

Conserving antiquity

From Professor Andrew Wallace-Hadrill

Sir, In kindly reporting my observations on the accelerating state of deterioration of Pompeii (September 25) your correspondent may have given readers the impression that I wish to lay part of the blame at the door of alleged corrupt administration of the site. This is not the case.

The problems of corruption in this country are notorious, but the main effect on Pompeii has been to freeze important restoration work amid unnecessary recriminations. I know of no evidence at all for corruption at the level of the Superintendent, and should emphasise that over the last 13 years of study there I have met nothing but kindness and sympathetic assistance from the local administration.

The problem in my view lies in the sheer scale of the conservation necessitated by excavation of some 100 acres of dense urban building; and it is one that can only be satisfactorily addressed, as was the peril of Venice, by collaboration at an international level.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW WALLACE-HADRILL
(Director),
The British School at Rome,
Via Gramsci 61, 00197 Rome,
September 29.

From Mr M. A. Barnes

Sir, Your report on the damage to Pompeii through tourism brought to mind the neglect which I recently saw at Empuries, the site of ancient Greek and Roman cities on the Spanish Costa Brava.

The Roman city has some fine mosaics, none of which are protected from the elements. In one case, erosion is so well advanced that the immediate area is strewn with loose fragments.

One can only hope that the mosaic can be restored by the Spanish authorities and the Catalan Museum of Archaeology before kleptomaniac tourists have "swept the floor".

Yours faithfully,
M. A. BARNES,
25 Beacon Hill,
St John's, Woking, Surrey,
September 30.

'Daft' maths

From Mr Gary Orgovanyi

Sir, I share the concern of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority that "daft" answers to sums can fool school-leavers (report, October 1). However, I am equally concerned to learn that leading employers consider that trigonometry and algebra do not have any real-life applications.

Presumably, these are employers with no business interests in any financial, scientific or engineering enterprises.

Yours faithfully,
GARY ORGOVANYI,
14 Southern Way, Farnham, Surrey,
October 2.

Labour comes home

From Mr Peter Hopkins

Sir, For fifty years, until I read of Tony Blair's speech (letters, October 3), I believed that Labour inhabited a home somewhere in Utopia.

I now realise that "home" is in fact a suburban semi next door to the Tories.

Yours faithfully,
P. HOPKINS,
90 Park Road,
Loughborough, Leicestershire,
October 3.

Technical hitch

From Dr Peter B. Baker

Sir, I hope that the wedding of Mr Webb to Miss Page (Marriages, October 2) was also recorded on the Internet.

Yours faithfully,
PETER B. BAKER,
9 Kenilworth Road, Ealing, W5,
October 2.

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR SIR GEOFFREY WILKINSON

Professor Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson, FRS, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, died on September 26 aged 75. He was born on July 14, 1921.

One of the chief influences in the field of 20th-century chemistry, Geoffrey Wilkinson was Sir Edward Frankland Professor of Inorganic Chemistry at London University from 1956 to 1958. His 1973 Nobel Prize—shared with Professor Ernst Otto Fischer of Munich—acknowledged his work on organometallic compounds done earlier at Harvard.

There, his research had opened a way of joining metal atoms to molecules of organic chemicals in order to produce new structures. Wilkinson and his colleagues went on to synthesise other organometallic sandwich compounds. This work had far reaching effects, leading notably to the development of new catalysts used in the production of today's low-lead fuels.

Geoffrey Wilkinson was fiercely proud of his Yorkshire roots. Portents of what was to come were already in evidence with his arrival at Imperial College from Todmorden Secondary School with a Royal Scholarship in 1939, and his subsequent graduation top of his year in 1941.

The wartime Joint Recruiting Board decreed that he should stay in research. Soon afterwards, however, some of the brightest British scientists were recruited for the nuclear energy project. With several other chemists, physicists and mathematicians, some of whom were also later to become famous, Wilkinson sailed from Greenock on January 11, 1943, aboard the RMS Andes for his first crossing of the Atlantic. The catastrophic consequences of the possible loss of that particular ship at sea from enemy action do not bear thinking about.

On arrival in North America Wilkinson worked as a scientific officer in the joint UK/US/Canadian atomic energy project at Montreal and at Chalk River until 1946. He then joined Professor Glenn Seaborg's research group at the University of California at Berkeley—the first non-American cleared by the US Atomic Energy Commission for work in the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory.

By the time he left for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1950 he had made more new isotopes of the chemical elements than any-



one else previously—and probably since. At MIT and at Harvard between 1950 and 1956 he established a style and methodology of research in inorganic chemistry that was daring and revolutionary for the time.

It was during this period that Wilkinson had his moment of inspiration. At about 4pm on January 30, 1952, in the Harvard chemistry library he put his mind to a possible rational structure for a newly-reported organic compound of iron. Astonishingly, at about the same time an organic chemist at Harvard, R. B. Woodward, was also reaching much the same conclusions. Thus emerged from Harvard, with contributions from both men, the paper entitled simply *The Structure of Iron Biscyclopentadienyl*. It stands now as one of the great fundamental contributions to chemistry. Afterwards there followed a flow of now-classical papers, where

the "sandwich" structural concept was extended, alongside other seminal contributions to these newer aspects of organometallic chemistry.

In January 1956 at the age of 34, Wilkinson returned to Imperial College, as one of its youngest-ever professors, to take up what had just been established as the first chair of inorganic chemistry in Britain. He quickly surrounded himself with an inspired group of co-workers who raced to establish the fundamentals of transition metal organometallics.

He had a close personal rapport with all of his researchers, and would appear in the laboratory to look over a shoulder with his cheery "What's new?", creating an atmosphere of students striving together in creative harness. He encouraged his researchers to regard a full six-day working week as the norm in his laboratory; when on Saturday evenings he would

say "See you in the morning", he did not mean Monday.

Wilkinson was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1965. When he went to Stockholm to receive his Nobel Prize for Chemistry in December 1973, at the height of an oil shortage crisis, he like many other Nobel laureates that year, used his acceptance speech to admonish the world for its dependence on oil. On the same occasion his fellow Nobel laureate Ernst Fischer admitted that his country was being forced by events to look again at coal as a source of energy.

Wilkinson would have blushed at being described as a "theoretician", although the mental processes whereby he sifted and moulded his exhaustive knowledge of inorganic chemistry into a flow of truly extraordinary insights, in fact constitute some of the very greatest in the field of pure theory. Although he formally retired from the Sir

Edward Frankland Chair of Inorganic Chemistry at Imperial College in 1988, until the week of his death he continued active research and writing in the Johnson Matthey Laboratories, which were built and endowed at the college for his use.

He was not content with transforming the face of research in inorganic chemistry across the world. With one of his former American students, F. A. Cotton, now a distinguished professor of inorganic chemistry, he published in 1962 the first edition of *Advanced Inorganic Chemistry*. This pioneering text fundamentally changed the approach to the teaching of inorganic chemistry in virtually every country in the world.

One of the last tasks Wilkinson accomplished was the completion of his contribution to the sixth edition of *Cotton and Wilkinson*. In 1982, the encyclopaedic nine-volume *Comprehensive Organometallic Chemistry* was produced under his inspired editorship.

This was followed in 1995 by the much larger 14-volume supplement set, indicating the pace of change in the subject that he had personally done so much to inspire and advance.

Wilkinson's major chemical discoveries are legion, and to have discovered any one of his "firsts", in say, sandwich compounds, thiocarbonyls, fluxional organometallics, rhodium-based hydroformylation, or any one of a host of others, would have been a more than satisfactory single high point in most other inorganic chemists' entire careers.

Geoffrey Wilkinson was knighted for his contributions to chemistry in 1976. But he never allowed himself to become an establishment figure. Indeed his passionate concern for, and defence of, funding for curiosity-driven chemical research regularly placed him in conflict with those he saw as responsible for undesirable changes.

Prime ministers, secretaries of state and members of parliament, along with the heads of funding and research councils, were among the recurring recipients of his critical letters. His memory is secure not only for his own truly remarkable corpus of scientific discovery, but also now by the works of the great array of his scientific children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren across the continents of the world.

He is survived by his wife Lise, the daughter of a Danish professor, and by their two daughters.

THE RIGHT REV GEORGE HENDERSON

The Right Rev George Henderson, MBE, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, 1977-92, and Primate of the Scottish Episcopal Church, 1990-92, died on September 26 aged 74. He was born on December 5, 1921.

THE Scottish Episcopal Church, often characterised as the landed gentry at prayer, does not readily come to mind as a breeding ground for socialism. Yet George Henderson combined religion and Labour politics with humanity and distinction. As well as becoming Primate of his Church, he also fulfilled the secular role of Provost (mayor) of Fort William. In religious matters, he was a traditionalist—on the High Church wing of Episcopalianism; in politics he was old Labour—but pragmatic and skilful in negotiation.

George Kennedy Buchanan Henderson was born in Oban, in modest circumstances, and "caught" his religion, as he himself put it, in the "strange and improbable" beauty of Oban Cathedral. He was educated at Oban High School and Durham University where he took first a licentiate in theology and then a BA. After a curacy at Christ Church, Glasgow, from 1943 until 1948, he spent the rest of his career in Lochaber.

The Scottish Episcopal Church is often wrongly thought of as simply the Scottish branch of Anglicanism—it is part of the Anglican Communion and has close relations with the Church of England. Yet it also prides itself on its purely Scottish descent, from a Reformation that differed in timing and substance from England's.

Today's Church comes down from the old post-Reformation bishops who rejected the Presbyterian system. But although the Church remained hierarchical, it was influenced by the democratic spirit which suffused the Scottish Reformation. In today's Church a bishop is elected by the diocese. Nor does the Church appoint an

archbishop. Instead, the bishops elect a Primate.

Thus Henderson, having become Rector of Fort William in 1950, was elected Bishop of Argyll and the Isles in 1977 and Primate in 1990. He retired in 1992.

The Church also had a strong historical connection with the Stuart dynasty (which reverted to Catholicism). Its link with the aristocratic classes was consolidated when Scottish landed families integrated themselves into English society. They sent their sons to Eton and Oxbridge; they married into the English aristocracy and penetrated the English nexus of patronage and power.

Henderson's adherence to Labour may, therefore, have surprised many of his flock; it arose partly from his understanding of the imperatives of Christianity and partly from the circumstances of his own upbringing.

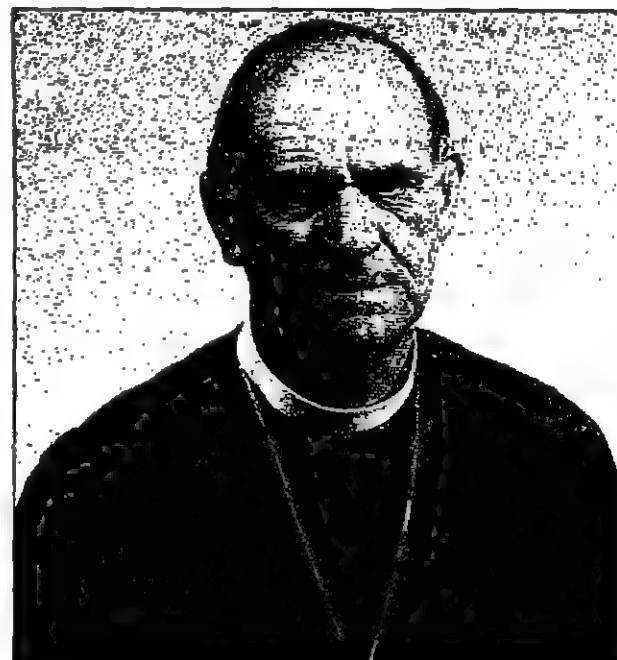
There were mutterings among a few of the clergy that the Church had found its own "Red Dean" (the label popularly given to Hewitt Johnson, who served for more than three decades as the fellow-travelling Dean of Canterbury). If anything, this

impression was strengthened by Henderson's frequent visits on holiday to Russia and Eastern Europe (an interest that probably derived both from his socialism and the fact that in his ancestry was a Polish emigrant).

In local government, outside the central belt of Scotland, party affiliations are often concealed under the label of "Independent" or "moderate". Henderson made no secret of his loyalties. He was greatly respected as a local Labour politician, serving as Provost of Fort William from 1962 until local government reform brought an end to the old burgh in 1975. He was appointed MBE in 1974.

He played a key role in the negotiations that brought the Wiggins Teape pulp and paper mill to Lochaber at a time when manufacturing industry, rather than tourism, was thought to offer the Highlands a more prosperous future. He also served as a magistrate and honorary sheriff, and was made an honorary Burgess of Fort William.

Henderson was a man of generous disposition and literary tastes. He is survived by his wife, Isobel.



MICHAEL KALISHER

Michael Kalisher, QC, barrister and chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, died from cancer on September 19 aged 55. He was born on February 24, 1941.

WITH the death of Michael Kalisher the Bar has lost one of its most respected and popular members. As a specialist in criminal law, he was among the most effective jury advocates of his generation. He was equally at home prosecuting or defending and each case, whether it involved murder or the intricacies of international finance, was approached with equal energy and enthusiasm.

Michael Kalisher's capacity for hard work, together with a considerable intellect, enabled him to combine a very busy practice with a heavy workload as a member of the Bar Council and the Criminal Bar Association. He served as chairman of the latter association between 1991 and 1993 and, had it not been for the onset of the illness which ended his life, he would almost certainly have become chairman of the Bar Council.

Michael David Lionel Kalisher graduated in law at Bristol University in 1962, and was admitted a solicitor in 1965. Within four years he had become a partner with Avery Milden in South Audley Street. However, by 1970 his leanings towards advocacy and the courts could be contained no longer and in February of that year he was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple.

After joining chambers at 9 King's Bench Walk, he quickly established a busy practice principally, but not exclusively, in crime. In 1976 he moved to 1 Hart Court where, for the last six years, he had been head of chambers, and his reputation advanced further.

In his early years as a solicitor Kalisher had supplemented his income by acting as an examiner in accounts and trust accounts for the solicitors' finals. His expertise



in this field enabled him to master the material and issues in complex fraud cases in half the time it took most of his contemporaries. These activities were quickly and enthusiastically recognised by his clients. They were also recognised by defendants he prosecuted.

In 1984 he was appointed a QC. For a criminal practitioner to receive such recognition within 14 years of being called was quite exceptional. As a

silk, his financial expertise quickly took him to Hong Kong and the large fraud trials which attracted the top English practitioners in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Perhaps the most notable was his successful prosecution of Ronald Li, the chairman of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

At home, variety to his busy practice was gained by acting as a DIT Inspector in a number of insider-dealing inquiries. Also in 1985 he had been appointed a Recorder of the Crown Court and in 1989 further recognition came his way when he was appointed a Bencher of his Inn.

Alongside his hectic life in the courts he managed to devote an enormous amount of time to the interests of his fellow barristers and the efficient running of the legal system. As chairman of the Criminal Bar Association he achieved much for the association by demonstrating a total command of detail and developing his arguments with humour. In 1994 he became chairman of the Legal Services Committee of the Bar Council. In June of that year he produced a report on the appointment of Queen's Counsel.

In this report, although recommending that appointments should continue to be made by the Queen on the advice of the Lord Chancellor, Kalisher recommended more openness in the procedures by which applications for silk are vetted.

He is survived by his wife Helen and by two daughters and a son.

PATRICK MATTHEWS

Patrick Matthews, photographer and creator of "Teddy Edward", died on September 25 aged 82. He was born on July 7, 1914.

THE creator of the world's most adventurous bear, Patrick Matthews was the photographer whose pictures brought to life Teddy Edward, a mischievous nursery character with an insatiable taste for travel. Together the photographer and his furry friend traipsed the globe, from Texas to Timbuctoo. Matthews photographed Teddy Edward and his friends—Snowy Toes the panda, Bushy the bush baby and Jasmine the rabbit—in every kind of exotic location, from the Grand Canyon to the slopes of Mount Everest.

If Teddy Edward never quite achieved the cult status of such ursine celebrities as Snowy or Winnie the Pooh, he retained a warm place in the hearts of a generation of *Watch With Mother* viewers. His exploits spawned books, annuals and a 13-episode run of *Teddy Edward* films with the BBC, narrated by Richard Baker. Although nothing but a mass-produced 1950s bear, Teddy Edward became a tele-

vision star from New Zealand to Norway, from Albania to Singapore.

Derek Patrick Lloyd Matthews was always devoted to teddy bears. Even as a young man fighting in the Second World War—during which he commanded in the field at Normandy and Belgium and was twice mentioned in dispatches—he took his teddy everywhere, including across the channel on D-Day.

Demobilised in 1946 with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, he rejoined Condé Nast, the company he had worked for before he was called up, as managing editor of *House and Garden*. The magazine had appeared three times before the war as a supplement, but Matthews, with a degree from St Martin's School of Art and prewar experience in magazine production, proved himself well capable of organising its publication as a monthly magazine.

In 1948 he became a photographer and studio manager at Condé Nast. It was at this time that his wife first suggested that, in his spare time, he should take photographs of his daughter's cuddly toys and sell them as nursery pictures.



He began with his favourite, the teddy bear, and on seeing the pictures, his wife decided that she would write a children's book. It proved a highly successful idea, and by the mid-1960s she had written four more stories, taking the little bear on a number of jaunts, including a winter

holiday, a trip to a farm and a stay at the seaside.

The travel to further flung regions was to come later, when Matthews was working as a director of the Film Producers' Guild. But it was only in 1971—after Matthews had returned to work at Condé Nast as director and general

manager—that Teddy Edward Enterprises was launched. Matthews by now was travelling all over the world with his teddy, from Nepal to New Mexico. The bear was the only one in the world, it was said, to have a certificate for riding to the bottom of the Grand Canyon on a mule.

Meanwhile Matthews also occupied himself with a number of other projects. He worked on gardening and photography books, including *Marshall Cavendish's Roses*, and pursued his interest in wine, editing a revised edition of Hugh Johnson's *World Atlas of Wines* and acting as chairman of the International Wine and Food Society.

It was with sadness that Matthews and his wife decided to part with Teddy Edward this year and sell him and his trappings—including his bear-sized helicopter, Jeep and castle—at Christie's. "We are far too old to go traipsing around the world photographing a bear," they said. "But he has been one of the family for 40 years and we will sorely miss him." The sale has not yet taken place. Matthews is survived by his wife Mollie and a daughter.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Peter Hebdorn, formerly Curate (NSM), Alwch (Bangor, Church in Wales); to be Curate (NSM), Glen Maga cum Stretton Magna and Wistow cum Newton Harcourt (Leicester).

The Rev Pauline Higham, Assistant Curate, Little Berkhamsted and Bayford, Essendon and Ponsbourne; to be Priest-in-charge, Little Berkhamsted and Bayford, Essendon and Ponsbourne (St Albans).

The Rev Robert Hollings, Priest-in-charge, Odstock and Nunton with Bodenhall, Charlton All Saints and Brilford (Salisbury); to be Vicar, Great Gaddesden and Little Gaddesden (St Albans).

Priest-in-charge, St Thomas's, Sutton-in-Craven (Bradford); to be Priest-in-charge, St Tudy w St Mabyn and Michaelston (Truro).

The Rev Alan Hulme, Curate, Christ Church, Chilwell (Southwell); to be Team Vicar, St Paul's, South Harrow (London).

The Rev Philip Janvier, Team Vicar, St Gabriel, Toxteth; to be Team Rector, St Stephen, Gatacre (Liverpool).

The Rev Owen Murphy, Assistant Curate, St Matthew, Okeby; to be Assistant Curate, St Michael and All Angels, Watford (St Albans).

The Rev Philip Murphy, Assistant Priest, SS Peter and Paul, Teddington (London); to be Vicar, St Margaret w St Columba, Leytonstone, and Priest-in-charge, St Andrew's, Leytonstone (Chelmsford).

The Rev David Osborne, Curate, West Leigh, St Alban (Portsmouth); to be Team Vicar, parish of Malvern Link, w responsibility for the churches of St Peter's, Cowleigh and The Ascension (Worcester).

Quinton; to be Priest-in-charge, SS Mary and Ambrose, Edgbaston (Birmingham).

The Rev Ruth Stables, NSM, Kington (Leicester); to be also Social Responsibility Officer, Board for Social Responsibility, same diocese.

The Rev Neil Thompson, Vicar, St Stephen, South Dulwich; to be Rector, St Peter, Limsfield and Titsey (Southwark).

WHAT IS A POLICEMAN WORTH?

INCENTIVES FOR JOINING THE FORCE

A cartoon in *Punch* once showed the then Commissioner of Police saying: "You can have any number of police, Mr. Bull—if you like to pay for them." But that was 70 years ago, when the overall cost of a policeman was only about a tenth of what it is today. The greater part of the cost then fell on the local ratepayers. Since 1988 an *Eachesque Grant* has covered half the total net cost of police; but the local authorities remain rather sticky at agreeing to pay increases, and one suggestion now is that the Treasury should contribute a higher proportion.

How the status of a policeman is to be assessed no one seems quite sure, because there is really no other profession with which his work and responsibilities can be compared. In the minds of the public, the rank of Sergeant inevitably suggests the non-commissioned sergeant in the army; and by inference a constable would be the equivalent of a private. But the individual authority and duties of the police constable are a great deal wider. One suggestion makes use of the analogy of warrant officers.

The kind of salary envisaged by nearly

ON THIS DAY

October 4, 1960

A first article, published the day before, had recognised the restrictions on a policeman's private life and the disruptions caused by shift working. It also voiced the plaint, still heard more than 30 years later, "We never see a policeman now".

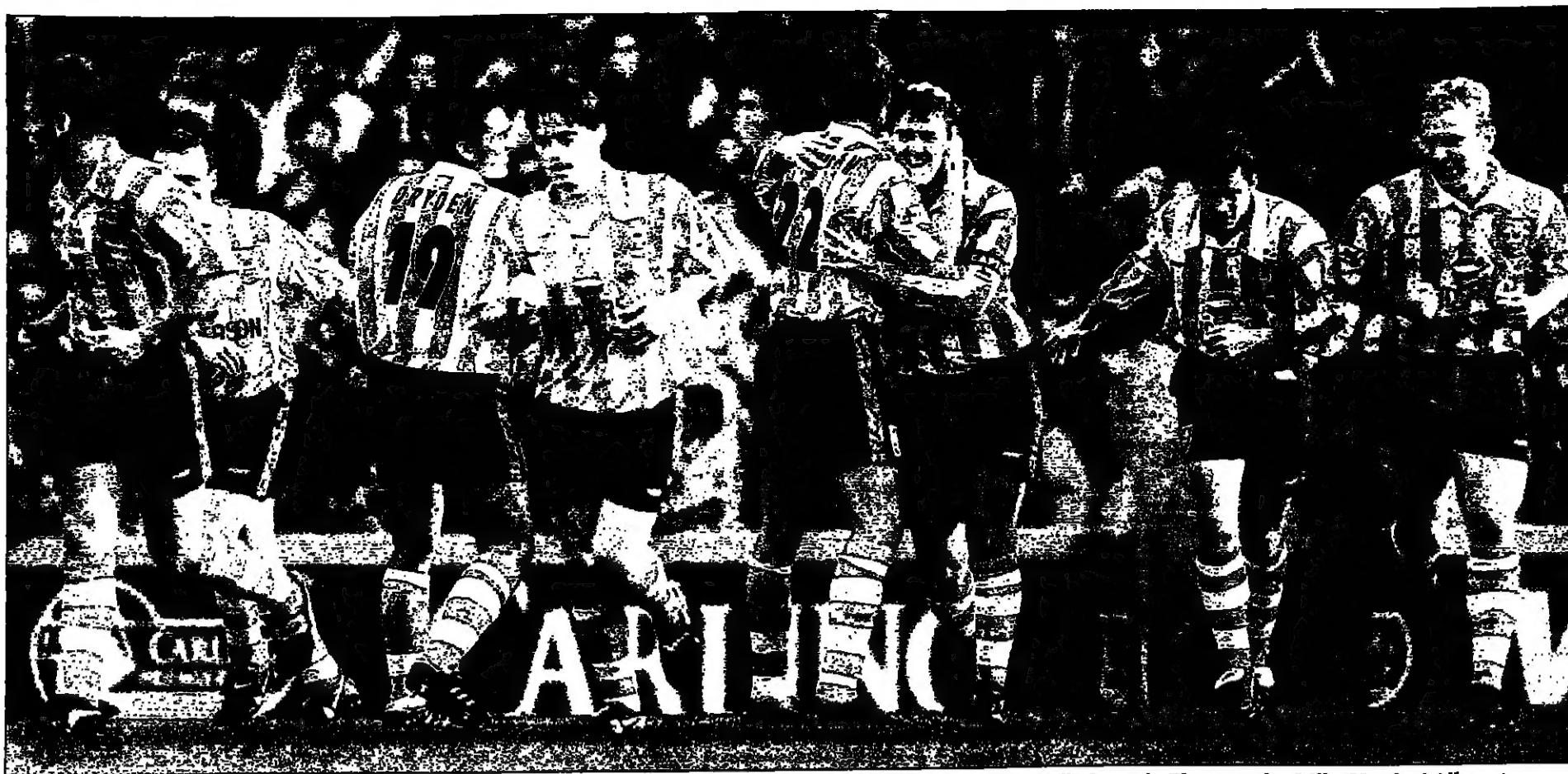
When comparing police pay with the average earnings in industry today, it must not be forgotten that "earnings" (which include overtime) can drop without wage rates dropping. Although the working week of the policeman was reduced on paper a few years ago from 48 to 44 hours, in many forces shortage of manpower has made it impossible to put this into effect. The result is that paid

overtime is being regularly worked, and when there are sufficient men to cover the week without regular overtime this loss of earnings has got to be taken into account before pay can be said to have been increased.

To attract first-class recruits to a service which is to produce its own officers, good career incentives must be offered. Promotion prospects are much better than they were before the war, but under existing regulations a man is not eligible for his first step until he has five years' experience. There is fairly general agreement that a constable ought to get accelerated increments or a substantial bonus on passing the qualifying examinations, pending a vacancy occurring for him.

The question of how to offer a chance of more rapid advancement to outstanding young men is complicated. An officer will be in his late twenties before he can become eligible for selection for the National Police College instituted after the war. The rank and file are suspicious—as they were of Lord Trenchard's Henderson College—of any idea that some might come in with silver spoons in their mouths. Police work must also be a worthwhile career for the man who does not advance beyond the rank of constable. Some do not even go in for promotion, not aspiring to higher rank: the *Dions of Dock Green* are a very valuable element in the service...

Jumpers, programme and umbrella seriously hamper goal celebrations



Southampton players show their delight at the second goal by Le Tissier, centre, in their 4-0 victory over Middlesbrough. Photographs: Mike Hewitt / Allsport

Standing up for The Dell boys

The advertising on the little electronic scoreboard at The Dell started to get hypnotic after a while. "In a tight corner?" it would ask, whenever a corner was taken in the match. Struggling not to, I would take my eye off the ball yet again, just to check that the solution to the crowd's tight-corner problem was still the same. And yes, it was. "POSH WINDOWS," announced the scoreboard, with a Southampton telephone number.

Last Saturday, as the Saints beat Middlesbrough by an astonishing 4-0 on a glorious autumn afternoon, upmarket glazing was the last thing on anybody's mind; yet somehow that bizarre scoreboard kept its head while all around were losing theirs. Every time a substitution took place, in fact, it knee-jerked yet another in-apt admonishment. "Accept no substitute!" it said, and then tried to sell us some scaffolding.

Southampton was a very happy place on Saturday. Fifteen thousand supporters who had turned up to gawp in misery at Middlesbrough's prize exotic, Ravanelli, stayed to chant: "What. A. waste. Er-munny!" and feel jolly smug. Ha, ha, ha. A certain amount of spirited nose-thumbing went on, as you can imagine.

Noticeably, Middlesbrough's phenomenal Brazilians, Emerson and Juninho, were worth every brass razoo — Emerson seeming never to move but always to be in the

LYNNE TRUSS



KICKING AND SCREAMING

right place: Juninho off like a whippet with the ball glued to his boot. But it was easy to ignore such things in the underdog euphoria. Ravanelli missed a penalty in the last few minutes of the game and the uprush of relief reached almost hysterical proportions.

My companion — as cheerfully ignorant as I — suggested charitably that perhaps Ravanelli, with his white hair, was playing past his best. But I checked in the programme and he was born in 1968.

Compared with the third-division football I'd seen the previous Saturday in Brighton (poor old Brighton, eh?), real differences were apparent. Instead of smacking blindly into each other every few minutes these Premiership players had high-performance features,

such as brakes, steering and acceleration; they tackled cleverly; they even vaulted bodies on the ground to avoid tripping.

The main thing was that the game travelled at about double the speed. Southampton's stripey red-and-white knee-socks, pumping up and down against the emerald sward, simply dazzled the eye. Glance up at the scoreboard, and by the time you had made a bizarre mental note to buy some scaffolding, the action had moved to the other end of the pitch.

By chance, I'd had an intensive Saints seminar on Friday night. A poet friend on the Isle of Wight turned out to be a Southampton supporter with very strong feelings (he also provided good street directions to The Dell and a life-saving tip about parking at the station).

Anyway, Le Tissier was his hero, and Graeme Souness was yet to prove himself as manager. And another thing: when Southampton sold Alan Shearer, they should have secured a proportion of future transfers, but they didn't.

I'm only passing this on, incidentally: I have no idea if transfer contracts work that way. As for the heroes, on Saturday I found it quite hard to pick out Le Tissier, except when he was scoring goals. If ever there were a footballer in need of a distinctive haircut, it's him.

As a newcomer to the game, I am still experiencing some

rather banal quandaries, such as whether to take a flask of soup. What is the etiquette when the men in the seats behind strike up an interesting conversation about Robert Mapplethorpe's photography at half-time? Can you barge in with an opinion, or would they hit you? And just how do you keep your lap clear at a football match?

So far, I have taken lots of jumpers and bundled them in my lap with my programme and umbrella — all of which

prevent me from standing up suddenly to celebrate a goal. Being the last person left seated, "hang on, I'll just..." not only spoils the moment, but feels like treason. People at The Dell look at you as if you might have just come down on a coach from the North East.

My other main problem is that, unfamiliar with the players, I want them to keep turning their backs on me, just to show me their numbers. It's like Bill and Ben — remember how in each episode one of

those identical terracotta chaps would be discovered facing the other way, so that you could read "BILL" or "BEN" on the back? ("It was Bill, it was Bill").

I keep experiencing something similar at football matches. Having dumped the coat and at last jumped up for the goal, I shout: "Yes! Yes! Who? What? Yes!" and then the player turns away, and I can shout: "It was Le Tissier! It was Le Tissier!"

I had laid a bet on Saturday's result. I wagered a quid that Southampton would win 3-2 — a deliberate folly, with odds of 25-1, but I was in career holiday mood. The odds against the real eventual score were 80-1 but the broad smiles on the Ladbroke men afterwards suggested there were few takers.

"Usually they bet on big home scores, but today they were cautious," tee-hee the bookies, waving us home. What a marvellous thing, to see such a lot of people unexpectedly jubilant. A "W" was about to appear in the list of results, after a long string of "L"s and "D"s, like a date in Roman numerals.

Gordon Watson was my man of the match (what a Trojan), and I notice in the programme that he has yet to secure a personal sponsor: his little face sort of begs you to buy him, like a kitten in need of adoption. What a terrible shame. If only I had placed a decent bet on 4-0, I might have been in a position to help.



Juninho buckles under a tackle from Lundekvam

SAILING

Leaders move away from chasing pack

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE BT Global Challenge fleet is starting to spread out significantly as the yachts head south down the Portuguese coast, with the gap between first and last now around 95 miles, with Group 4, under Mike Golding, again taking the lead.

Golding is being chased hard by Chris Tibbs, on *Concert*, in second, and Simon Walker, on *Toshiba Wave Warrior*, in third, both of whom had spells leading the race on the way to Cape Finisterre. *Motorola*, under Mark Lodge, is on her own in the 14-strong fleet, logged 188 miles yesterday, compared with *Ocean Rover*, on the eastern edge of the pack, which managed just 139 miles.

The hope for those inshore is that the prevailing high-pressure system will decline, leaving Golding and those after him with a drying breeze, while land and sea-breezes inshore give the likes of *Commercial Union*, *Nuclear Electric* and *Ocean Rover* a chance to catch up.

However, the requirement for the yachts to pass inside Berlenga Island just north of Lisbon — the last waypoint before Rio de Janeiro — means the leaders will have to turn in again and may lose their advantage. Golding was expected to pass the lighthouse at some point last night.

There were no more reports of sea-sickness, although Kate Chaplin, a crew member on *3Com*, was resting after dislocating a shoulder. *Concert* has a broken generator and will use her main engine to power the watermaker.

Latest positions 40

easterly, with the crews working hard on trim and spinnaker peels.

Merlyn Owen, on *Global Teamwork*, is going exceptionally well to be in tenth place after his penalty-delayed start. He was again unlucky to get held-up off Cape Finisterre on Wednesday night as the leaders surged on, but he remains positive.

"They've done really well but who knows what's ahead," he said yesterday. "We're still in good company. Our position doesn't show the hard work on trim and sail changes that is going on. The race is very competitive and all the crews must be working really hard to keep the fleet so close together."

HOCKEY

Stretched game needs commercial support

ALTHOUGH this is only the third week of the women's National Hockey League, the cost of competing is already starting to stretch the limited budgets of some clubs (Alex Ramsay writes). Last weekend the Hightown v Ipswich match was postponed after torrential rain made the pitch unplayable. While the waste of time was frustrating for the players, rather more pressing was the waste of £700 (Ipswich spent getting to Liverpool in the first place).

This weekend Ipswich will try again, visiting Clifton before heading up the motorways to play the rearranged match with Hightown. In all, the two forays will cost Ipswich somewhere in the region of £1,800. With Hightown and Ipswich having European commitments

to fulfil this season, every penny counts.

It is four years since the league last had a sponsor. Should the proposed merger of the All England Women's Hockey Association (AEWA) and the Hockey Association go ahead, there are plans for a marketing and promotions position within the new set-up, but that would not happen until June 1997.

After the Olympics, this summer provided a perfect platform for a marketing campaign. Nothing was done, however, and Monica Pickering, president of the AEWA, admits they have missed the boat. "We would rather put resources into working in the field than spending them on someone who may or may not bring us some return," she said.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 39

MONOGLLOT

(c) Someone who is fluent in only one language, from the Greek *monos* only + *glossa* a tongue. "I am really sorry, Marie-Antoinette, but I'll have to refrain from indulging in the jellied calf's brains. I have this medical problem, you see. I'm a monoglot, and..."

ESCULENT

(b) Fit to be eaten. From the Latin. "Ah — as always at your table, Lady Leech — nothing in any way esculent tonight, I see. How on earth do you manage it?"

BELLWETHER

(c) A male sheep, which leads the flock, with a bell tied around its neck. Hence, anyone who assumes a leading role or takes the initiative — more appropriately among a flock of less than dynamic or purposeful colleagues. As, for example, the president of a Local Residents' Association.

SLUBBERDEGULLION

(c) A magnificent seventeenth-century term of contempt (found in *Hudibras*) apparently meaning a dirty, wretched slob. But whatever its meaning, a fine insult.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 f6xQ5 (there is nothing better) 2 b7g7 Kx8 3 Nf6 mate

RADIO CHOICE

A question of interpretation

At the Shoulder of History. Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am.

At the risk of misjudging the rest of this series about political interpreters, I don't see how the next five episodes can have the impact of the first. Bruce Boeglin is the only one of the six to have risked losing his life. In the former Yugoslavia, and later in Burundi and Rwanda, he was up there with the generals, the exploding shells, and the dead. Sometimes, his job was more embarrassing than dangerous. Working for the UN, he was the fourth man at a VIP round-table discussion. An insult, aimed at the British representative, was not understood by him. It was Boeglin's unenviable task to translate, while looking the Briton straight in the eyes. The face turned an indignant red, from neck to roots of hair.

Speaking as an Expert. Radio 4, 8.50pm.

In a theatrical context, fraudulent conversion can pay off. In this engaging series, Laurie Taylor fraudulently converts himself into beings who know the ropes, sometimes getting away with it. Tonight, he takes an acting workshop, passing himself off as an avant-garde director. Astonishingly, he succeeds. That is the mask with lips turned up in a smile. What about the companion mask, with lips mournfully turned down? Taylor wears that one, too. A failed actor years ago, he seeks revenge by trying to undermine the confidence of two promising actors of whom he asks the near-impossible. Their Trafalgar is his Waterloo.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 6.30am Chris Evans 9.00
Simon Mayo 12.00 Charlie Jordan
2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark
Goodie 7.00 Essential Selection 10.00
One in the Jungle 12.00 Radio 1 Rap
Show 3.00am Anne Nightingale 5.00
Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

FM Stereo, 6.00am Sarah Kennedy
7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Alex
Lester 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm
Debbie Throver 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05
John Dunn 7.00 Mad about Musical
7.30 Friday Night is Music Night Live
from the Guildhall in Portsmouth, with
the BBC Concert Orchestra, under
Martin Yates 9.30 Listen to the Band
10.10 Sheridan Morley. Radio 2 Arts
Programme 12.05am Sue McNary

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl 6.45
Wake up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast
Programme incl at 6.55, 7.55 racing
preview 8.35 The Magazine, with Brian
Haves, incl 10.25 News from Europe
12.00 Midday with Mel, incl 12.35pm
Moneycheck, with Philippa Lamb 2.05
Ruscoe on Five, incl 3.45 Entertainment
News 4.00 Nationwide, incl at 5.45
Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra,
with David McNeil 7.35 Parkinson on
Sport 8.30 Friday Sport, with Robin
Baley. Includes a review of the week's
European football action 10.05 Paper
Talk, with Jay Rayner and Brian Alexander
11.00 Night Extra, with David
McNeil 12.05am After Hours 2.05
All Night, with Richard Dabry

TALK RADIO

5.00am Early Breakfast 7.00 Paul Rice
5.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Anna Rea-
burn 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00
Drivetime 7.00 Sportszone 10.00 Mike
Allen 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, includes Bach
(Concerto in C for three
violins, BWV1054); Strauss
(Dust and Transfiguration);
Friedrich Swarovski's choice
of music by Orlando Gibbons;
John McCabe (Red Leaves);
Bach (orch Partita, On the
Sea Shore); Janacek (String
Quartet No 2, Intimate Letters)

9.00 Morning Collection, with
Catharine Young, includes
Tchegre (La Rousselle
Enchante); Scriabin (Piano
Sonata in F sharp minor, Op
23); Mozart (Piano Trio in E
flat, K520)

10.00 Musical Encounters,
includes Bliss (Welcome the
Queen); Britten (A Birthday
Hansel); Purcell (O Lord God
of Hosts, 237); Haydn
(Symphony No 90 in C);
Taverner (Orion and
Fledgling); Methuselah (Lullaby
Concerto); Britten (Fish in the
Unfurnished Lakes, To Lie Flat
on the Back, When You're
Feeling Like Expressing Your
Affection)

12.00 Composer of the Week:
Steve Reich at 60.

1.00 News, Chamber Music from
Massachusetts, introduced by
Rodney Stottford. Peter Hill,
piano, Messiaen (La Chouette
Hukle, L'Alouette Lulu,
Catalogue d'Oiseaux);
Dutilleul (Three Preludes);
Messiaen (La Merle Bleue,
Catalogue d'Oiseaux)

2.00 Three Score Years and Ten.
The second of the
programmes looking at
Choral Evensong

2.05 Faisla, (Sonata in B flat for
recorder, oboe, violin and
cello) Members of the
Rieser Consort

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW
only) 6.00 News Briefing incl
Weather 6.10 Farming Today
6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30
Today incl 7.25, 8.25, 9.25
7.45 Thought for the Day
8.40 A Moment's Liberty (S/S)
8.50 Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island
Discs: Ben Elton (1)
9.45 Gerry's Bar (4/4)
10.00 News: At the Shoulder of
History (FM). See Choice of
10.00 An Act of Worship (LW)
10.15 On This Day (LW)

10.30 Women's Hour
11.30 The Natural History
Programme

12.00am News; You and Yours
12.25 The Food Programme

1.00 The World at One, with Nick
Clarke at the Labour Party
Conference in Blackpool and
James Cox in London

1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55
Shipping Forecast

2.00 News: The Classic Series:
Dombey and Son (Michael
Bakewell's six-part
dramatisation of Charles
Dickens's story (S/R) (1)

3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift,
with Laurie Taylor

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope.
Tim Marlow sees a collection
of Picasso portraits in Paris

4.45 Short Story: Love and
Death in Langueoche, the
last of five French tales written
and read by the novelist
Christopher Hope

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast
5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Going Places. More
weekend pursuits and
passions revealed by David
Stallard

RADIO 5

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week, with Chris
Serie

8.05 Any Questions? Paul
Boateng, MP, Paul Leith and
Rodney Baker, general
secretary of Unison, tackle
the issues raised in Newport.
Shropshire, Jonathan
Dimbleby is in the chair

8.50 Speaking as an Expert. See
Choice (5/6)
9.15 Letter from America, by
Alicia Cooke

9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature:
Down These Mean Streets.
Kevin Jackson takes a look
back at the Hollywood classic
The Big Sleep, starring
Humphrey Bogart (1) 9.59
Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with
Jeremy Harris

10.45 Book at Bedtime: The
Great Gatsby. Sam Roberts
reads F. Scott Fitzgerald's
classic, abridged by Neville
Sayer (10/10)

11.00 Week Ending. The topical
comedy sketch show, starring
Sally Grace, Toby Longworth
and special guests

11.25 Tea Junction. Patrick
Hannan and guests take a
sceptical look at the week's
events

11.45 A Cry in the Dark. Joanna
Pinckney teams up with
Andrew Mitchell in Nepal to
experience the sounds of
tigers in their natural habitat
(5/5)

12.00 News incl 12.27am approx
Weather

12.30 The Late Book: Nicc —
Songs They Never Play on
the Radio (5/6) (1) 12.48
Shipping Forecast 1.00 As
World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 87.5-99.5. RADIO 2, FM 90.0-
90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.8. LW 138, MW
720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 693, 903. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW
198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM
105.6; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK, MW 1053, 1083. Television
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هكذا من الأصل



LACROSSE 39

Wales pin hopes
for World Cup
on Jones family

SPORT

FRIDAY OCTOBER 4 1996

EQUESTRIANISM 40

Belgian helps
himself to
Welcome Stakes



Brian Glanville tells Glenn Hoddle his World Cup tactics must not be set in stone

Flexible friend holds the key to riches

THE tyranny of tactics. Next Wednesday, at Wembley, England play Poland in a World Cup group two qualifying match, their second game under the aegis of Glenn Hoddle, the coach. Once again they will be deploying the 3-5-2 formation which, as far as Hoddle is concerned, seems to be set in stone.

It will be applied at every international level, right down to the youth team. Now, where have we heard something like this before from Lancaster Gate? Why, during the early reign as England manager of Bobby Robson, some 14 years ago. Then, coming under the baleful influence of the Football Association's guru of coaching, Charles (Long Ball) Hughes, Robson was planning to impose the orthodoxy of "Direct Football" on every England side.

Thenceforth, the ball would be booted inexorably into the penalty box or out diagonally to the flanks, and Pomo, the position of maximum opportunity, would be the lodestone.

Criticism of the new diktat was instant and bitter. Its proponents withdrew in some

Payton's place 39
Adaptable Platt 40
Gould's choice 40

confusion, insisted it had never been a starter. But it had.

Comparisons are odious and, in this case, unfair. Hoddle, a magnificent footballer himself, has always believed in creative football. But to feel he has found the panacea, the philosopher's stone, would be a real error. It does not exist in football and it never will. Which poses the eternal question: should tactics be adapted to the players available, or should the players be subordinate to the tactics?

It was Rudyard Kipling who wrote that there are nine and sixty ways of constructing tribal lays, and every single one of them is right.

Even in the case of 3-5-2 and its use by England, we have already seen that there are two distinct versions. Hoddle wants attacking wing backs. Terry Venables, his predecessor, who has criticised him for being negative, used two retractive wingers during Euro 96.

That Venables should be so insistent that those tactics are the right ones was somewhat



The wider choice: from left to right, Hinchcliffe, the wing back Hoddle turned to in Moldova, Matthews, the true winger with the classic feint, and Heskey, who must wonder what his future holds



surprising, remembering that he came to them so late in his reign. But the argument seems to me a futile one. To eliminate wingers or wing backs as a matter of principle is absurd. In the first place, there will always be a role for the true winger, something impressed on me as recently as Tuesday when a slender, 20-year-old Australian, Steven Riches, came on as a substitute for Leyton Orient against Swansea City, galvanised both colleagues and crowd with his

dancing feet and rejoiced the heart of his manager, Pat Holland, who feels he has found a star.

Only a true winger can produce the Stanley Matthews feint, the sprint to the line, the deadly ball pulled back into the middle. But to use wingers as auxiliary defenders, as Venables did, is to risk exhaustion, so that when the time does come for a burst there is no petrol in the tank.

It was significant that when players dropped out of En-

gland's match against Moldova, Hoddle should suddenly pick the previously unconsidered Andy Hinchcliffe, of Everton, evidently because he happened to be a full back who was left-footed. An "ambidextrous" winger of the huge promise of Emile Heskey, of Leicester City, must wonder what hope he has.

Meanwhile, Hoddle and others tell us 4-4-2 is dead. This will be interesting news to the Italy manager, Arrigo

Sacchi. And to his successor with AC Milan, Fabio Capello, who used it to dominate the Italian championship and to win the European Cup.

News, too, to those Milan players who, when their 4-3-3 was recently going wrong, told their new, Uruguayan manager, Oscar Washington Tabarez, that they wanted to revert to 4-4-2 with which they started winning again.

Later in Bobby Robson's England managership, during the World Cup finals of

1990 in Italy, he was persuaded by senior players to use a sweeper, something he had resisted for years.

It worked well enough against Holland, in Cagliari, even against Belgium in Bologna. But it broke down badly in the quarter-finals against Cameroon, in Naples, when the veteran Roger Milla was running England ragged.

But when Mark Wright, the sweeper, cut his head and moved out of defence, little Paul Parker marked Milla in a

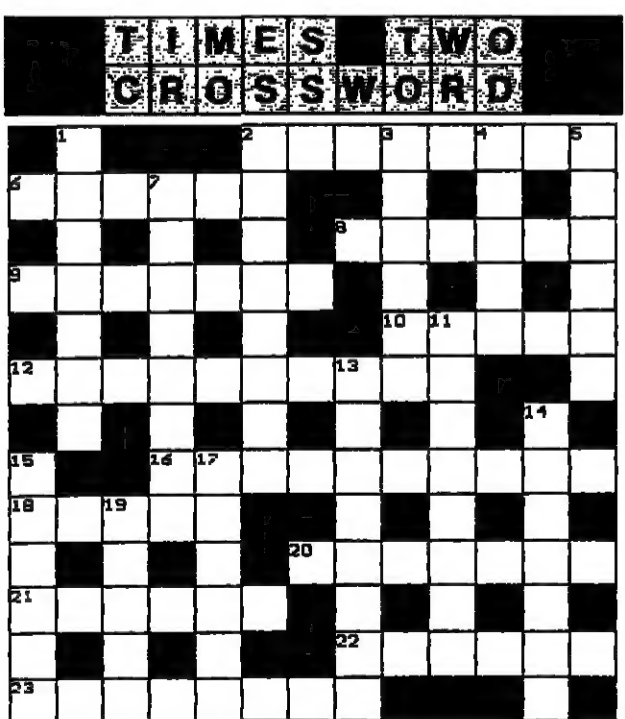
4-4-2 scheme and England recovered to win. The next day, basking in success and Mediterranean sunshine, Robson observed: "A flat back four saved us."

Blind orthodoxy has always been prevalent in football. When Arsenal introduced the Third Back Game and the stopper centre half in 1925, they were eventually followed by almost every club in the land. Yet the Italy team, under Vittorio Pozzo, played the attacking centre half tactics he

had seen as a student in England before the First World War and won two World Cups with it.

In an ideal world, tactics would be flexible; changeable not only from game to game, but even within a game. They are perennially subject to fashion.

We live, alas, in the era of the all-powerful coach. Ideology rules. Players submit; but look what happened to communism. Glenn Hoddle please note.



No 904

- ACROSS
- 2 Skiered instrument (8)
 - 6 Steel beam (6)
 - 8 Floor covering (6)
 - 9 Air-blowing device (7)
 - 10 Uncanny (5)
 - 12 Bloodthirsty (10)
 - 16 One enforcing work discipline, usu. hard (10)
 - 18 Projecting edge of roof (5)
 - 20 Get cooily close (7)
 - 21 Long low area (6)
 - 22 Sixth planet out (6)
 - 23 Looking abashed, foolish (8)
- DOWN
- 1 Generous (7)
 - 2 Young Guides: cakes (8)
 - 3 Petition to God (6)
 - 4 Daily newsheet (5)
 - 5 Easy catch; artist's model (6)
 - 7 Mandated representative (8)
 - 11 Vision (8)
 - 13 Reprove (8)
 - 14 Assent; end innings (7)
 - 15 Wooster's valet (6)
 - 17 Dormant (6)
 - 19 Worth (5)

The solution to 903 will be published Wednesday, October 9

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Ruling on call-ups set to cause backlog

BY RUSSELL KEMPTON

FIXTURE chaos lies ahead in the Nationwide League, with football clubs facing a backlog of matches when the championship and relegation issues reach a climax in April and May next year. Clubs could be forced to play as many as four games in eight days towards the end of the season, after the rules governing postponements because of international commitments were extended to include under-21 as well as senior players.

Over this weekend, from Friday to Sunday, only 27 matches remain in England. The FA Carling Premiership programme was halted because of the World Cup qualifying ties and, with the first division clubs voting through the under-21 amendment on Wednesday, five Nationwide League fixtures have also been called off.

Chris Hull, a Football League spokesman, said yesterday: "If we also have adverse weather conditions, which we always encounter at some stage during the winter, it could become very difficult. We brought this to the attention of the first division clubs and we outlined all the possibilities and consequences."

Crystal Palace's match against Sheffield United, at Selhurst Park on Sunday, due to have been shown live on television, is the latest fixture to be postponed. The League was less sympathetic, though, towards Trevor Francis, the Birmingham City manager, who wanted to call off the game against Huddersfield Town on Tuesday.

Montgomerie finds little merit in putting lapse

FROM DAVID MILLER IN BERLIN

THREE-PUTTING from 15ft to double-bogey the 16th, on the first day of the German Masters at Motzener See Golf and Country Club, Colin Montgomerie gave reluctant encouragement to Ian Woosnam, the only rival who can prevent him winning the European order of merit for the fourth consecutive year.

Since nothing motivates the Welshman more keenly than money—the definitive professional, one might say—the outcome is by no means over. Those two lost strokes pulled Montgomerie back from four-under to finish on 70, while Woosnam, out earlier on a day bathed in autumn sunshine, was round in 69, with a 34 inward half despite his troubling back pains.

Montgomerie, who must finish £6,653 ahead of Woosnam here—where the first prize is £108,330—to be sure of not surrendering his lead in the Volvo Masters in Spain, was visibly and understandably irritated with his blunder.

"No, I'm not interested in his [Woosnam's] score," Montgomerie said. "I'm only interested in my own golf." He admitted he had not played well, not having sunk a putt of more than ten feet. His birdies at the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 13th had all come with short putts, the last three on par-five holes. Off the tee and with his approach shots he had been accurate and long.

Ernie Els, the US Open winner in a play-off against Montgomerie two years ago and his playing partner yesterday, returned a 68 and observed that: "Monty could have gone round in sixty-nothing".

There were five players six-under for the day: Peter Baker, of England, José Coceres, of Argentina, Marc Farry, of France, Paul McGinley, of Ireland, and Mark Mouland, of Wales. Mouland is remembered for his outstanding performance in the PGA championship at Wentworth last year, where he led going into the last nine holes.

Anders Forsbrand, of Sweden, the defending champion, had an errant afternoon in company with Montgomerie and Els, taking 74. Per-Ulrik Johansson, also of Sweden, the winner of the European Open in Dublin last week, and a Ryder Cup contender, was one-under, as were Tom Lehman, the Open champion, and Bernhard Langer, runner-up last year: all in danger, without improvement, of missing the cut.

In German golf, east is east and west is west, as Bob Hope used to sing. Motzener See, 25 miles southeast of the capital, is deep in former East Germany: the autobahn to

Poland reverberates its way through the pine forest alongside the 5th green. The objective in bringing the German Masters here for the past three years has been to expand what, in the old western Germany, is fundamentally still a rich man's game, and to hope to generate a "peoples' champion" such as Ballesteros. Certainly the crowd here is largely proletarian. Many arrived along the rutted local roads on old-fashioned bicycles, and dress was predominantly baggy jeans, brown anoraks and trainers. Yesterday, coincidentally, was German Reunification Day. The only German in the top 50 was Thomas Goehle, equal second on five-under.

It is a slimmer and more equitable Montgomerie that carries Scottish pride these days, even if a title in one of the four majors remains tantalisingly elusive. Yesterday, he was in constant and often humorous banter with Els. Only over the last three holes did the brow darken.

He might have eagled the 558-yard 5th when pitching to 12ft but his first putt grazed the hole. Misreading the tilt around the awkwardly-sited pin position at the next, he missed a relatively easy birdie, and did so again at the 7th.

A glorious approach to the 15th and two putts made him four-under and he seemed hot in pursuit of the leaders. Then a six-iron at the 16th flew through the green, his chip back went beyond the hole; the downhill putt ran past and he missed the one back. Today, he must steady the boat.

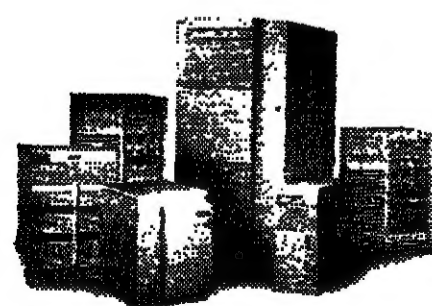


Montgomerie: unsteady

Scores, page 40

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